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WORLD SOCCER

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS AND TABLES

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CAN McCOIST STOP ITALY?

MY WAY

By Johan Cruyff

SPOTLIGHT:

BERGKAMP
KLINSMANN
OLIVEIRA

BARESI QUITS

WIN

PATRICK boots worn by JEAN-PIERRE PAPIN

GAMES BY MAIL DETAILS ON PAGE 27

When Italy opened their 1994 World Cup qualifying campaign with a 2-2 draw against Switzerland in Cagliari last month, they did so without arguably their most influential player of the last six years — captain and sweeper Franco Baresi.

At the age of 32, and after ten years in the national squad, Baresi has decided that enough is enough.

The Milan sweeper, for long regarded as among the best of his generation, has decided to limit himself to club soccer, playing on with Milan for "another two or three years".

Two intriguing questions immediately ask themselves.

Firstly, what exactly lies behind Baresi's international "retirement" and, secondly, how will coach Arrigo Sacchi replace him?

Baresi, in a hastily convened media conference last week, prompted more questions than answers when saying: "I feel absolutely fine. It's just that when you get to a certain stage, after so many years, you feel the need to live your life differently.

"It's a choice of lifestyle, I want to limit the number of matches I play. The decision is mine and mine alone, private and personal.

"Platini, at the age of 32, retired from soccer. I, at 32, am cutting down on my games."

It sounds credible. Credible, that is, from almost anyone except a professional footballer.

By and large, while things are going well, footballers have only one concern — to play.

When players start opting out, it usually means that either they no longer feel up to the job or they have a strong aversion to the team manager in question.

The latter possibility can be discarded in the case of Baresi and the current Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi, since they enjoyed four remarkable seasons together at Milan, winning one league title, two European Cups and two World Club Cups.

Former Italian coach Azeglio Vicini, the man who established Baresi as the defensive fulcrum of the team when taking over from Enzo Bearzot immediately after the 1986 World Cup, probably came closer to understanding Baresi's decision when commenting: "I'm sorry that he'll no longer play for Italy.

"But it's nice to think that a great player like him has opted out while he is still on top, still an automatic first choice selection."

Perhaps Baresi, in his heart of hearts, began to suspect that the day when even he would be called into question was not that far away.

Perhaps, too, Baresi felt that the Italian road to US 94 might be a lot tougher than some think.

Certainly, the last gasp, last kick nature of that draw with Switzerland would suggest that, for the

ARRIVEDERCI

Baresi quits internationa

FRANCO **BARESI**
Born: Travagliato, May 8, 1960.
Previous clubs: none.
Milan debut: April 23, 1978 v Verona. Milan won 2-1.
Milan appearances: 389 (12 goals). *At 01.06.92.*
International debut: December 4, 1982 v Romania. Italy won 1-0.
International caps: 61 (2 goals).
HONOURS
World Cup: 1982
World Club Cup: 1990, 1991
Champions' Cup: 1989, 1990
European Super Cup: 1990, 1991
Mitropa Cup: 1982
Italian League: 1979, 1988, 1992
Italian Super Cup: 1989

time being at least, Sacchi's Italy is a long way short of Sacchi's Milan.

Age and recurring injury have undoubtedly slowed Baresi. Throughout the last two seasons, he has played a notably more cautious game in a Milan side in which he has been well protected from in front by the remarkable Frank Rijkaard, arguably the most consistent of the club's three Dutchmen.

Curiously, to my mind at least, one of the first premonitions of Baresi's impending mortality came in Rome in June 1990 during Italy's narrow 1-0 World Cup quarter-final win against the Republic of Ireland.

For at least half an hour in the Olympic Stadium that night, Baresi looked confused, uncertain as to where the next green shirted attack was coming from.

Further evidence of the Baresi decline has been hard to come by.

Playing in the Milan Rolls-Royce of a team, he has continued to look like the best sweeper in Italy.

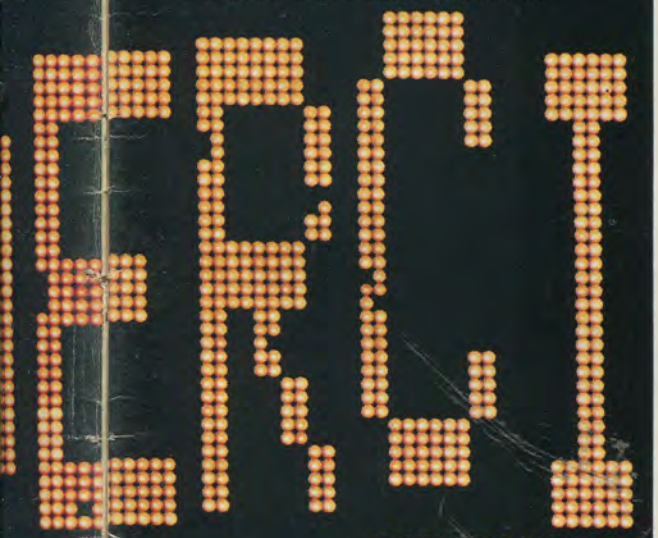
How much that was of his own doing and how much thanks to a remarkably strong side is a moot point.

What is certain, however, is that, in decline or not, coach Sacchi was counting on Baresi to see Italy safely through to the 1994 World Cup Finals in the Uinted States.

Sacchi's zonal alignment, his constant use of the offside tactic, moving the defence out quickly and his requirement for attacks to start from the back were all tailor made for Baresi.

There are many Italian sweepers in the Serie A today who can defend adequately, standing six to ten yards behind their central defenders.

There are few who can do so, as required by Sacchi, that is standing in line with his full-backs so as to favour the offside trap. Apart from the



BY PADDY AGNEW

tional football

technical considerations, and perhaps more importantly, Sacchi's Italy will miss the services of the player who commands most respect from team-mates.

At his best, Baresi's pace, timing, positional sense, attacking ability and, yes, ruthlessness, made him the ideal Italian sweeper.

Sacchi, allegedely, intends to subsitute Baresi by asking left back Paolo Maldini to switch to sweeper.

Although Maldini's last minute injury ruled out such a solution against Switzerland, it was obvious that central defender Alessandro Costacurta badly missed Baresi beside him. Both Swiss goals came from central defensive errors.

Little wonder that a few minutes after the Cagliari near-fiasco, Italian Federation President Antonio Matarrese expressed the hope that Baresi might think again and rejoin the national team.

Coach Sacchi, not surprisingly, also had left the door open, days earlier, when saying: "In football, you can never say never, so we'll wait and see. I hope and think that he might change his mind."

Sacchi and Baresi with the World Club Cup in 1989 (facing page).

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World Footballer of the Year

World Manager of the Year

World Team of the Year

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Send your nominations on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to:

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WHAT'S ON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
World Cup qualifiers, CONCACAF 2nd round, Group B: Canada v Jamaica, El Salvador v Bermuda.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4
Champions' Cup, Cup-winners' Cup and UEFA Cup 2nd round, 2nd leg.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6
African Nations' Cup qualifiers, Group 3: Sierra Leone v Senegal, Togo v Guinea Bissau. **Group 8:** Egypt v Mali.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
World Cup qualifiers, CONCACAF 2nd rnd, Group A: St Vincent v Mexico, Costa Rica v Honduras. **Group B:** Canada v El Salvador, Jamaica v Bermuda. **African Nations' Cup qualifier, Group 8:** Morocco v Malawi.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 3: Albania v Latvia. **Group 5:** Greece v Hungary. **Group 6:** Israel v Sweden.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 4: Romania v Czechoslovakia. **Group 6:** France v Finland.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15
World Cup qualifiers, CONCACAF 2nd round, Group A: Mexico v Honduras, St Vincent v Costa Rica. **Group B:** Canada v Bermuda.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 1: Scotland v Italy, Switzerland v Malta. **Group 2:** England v Turkey. **Group 3:** Northern Ireland v Denmark, Spain v Rep. of Ireland. **Group 4:** Wales v Belgium. **International:** Germany v Austria.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
World Cup qualifiers, CONCACAF 2nd rnd, Group A: Mexico v Costa Rica, St Vincent v Honduras. **Group B:** Jamaica v El Salvador.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
UEFA Cup 3rd round, 1st leg.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28
World Cup qualifier, CONCACAF 2nd round, Group A: Honduras v St Vincent.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 4: Cyprus v Romania. **CONCACAF 2nd round, Group A:** Costa Rica v Mexico.

EUROPEAN CLUB TOURNAMENT RESULTS

● FULL results and details from the first round, second legs of the three European club competitions are on pages 56-61.

Top striker . . . Ally McCoist.

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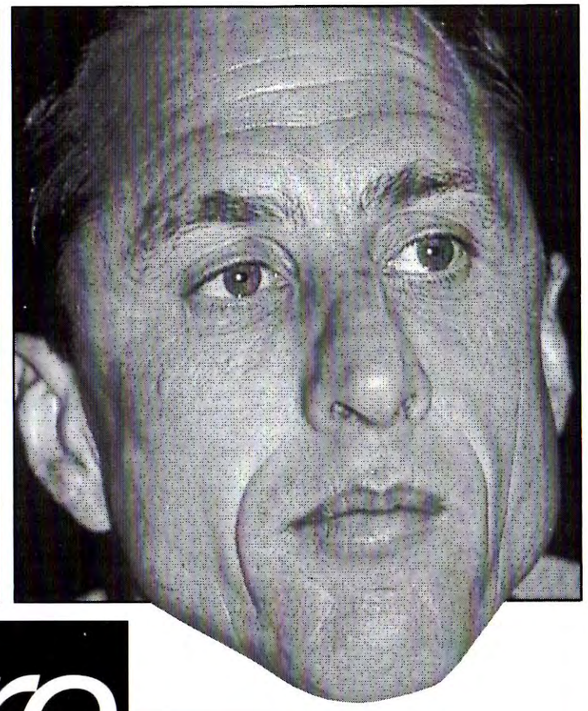
Barcelona coach JOHAN CRUYFF, in conversation with ANDREW CONRADI, gives his views on an assortment of soccer topics

Dire straits

Too much running, not enough quality



WS: What are your views on Denmark's victory in the European Championship?

JC: For me, the Danish team were not particulary good in Sweden. At times they were downright bad!

WS: Isn't that just sour grapes because they beat Holland, or do you really believe that Denmark were lucky to win the tournament?

JC: All they did was defend and take advantage of other teams' mistakes. They will never win anything again playing that way. They hardly passed the ball or strung together one combination.

WS: But impartial fans everywhere applauded Denmark.

JC: Everyone says it's only the result that counts in football, but that's not true. The game has to be played properly. What Denmark's victory showed was that the state of European football is pretty dire at the moment. There is far too much emphasis on running and far too little quality.

WS: Turning to Barcelona you have been at the club for several years now and enjoyed great success. Isn't it time you moved on?

JC: I can't see myself moving after this, at least not to another club. I love this city. My children go to school here and as far as the football is concerned, I have total authority on who comes and goes.

WS: But there was a time, wasn't there, when you considered leaving if you didn't get your own way?

JC: In a football club, things always go wrong. That's natural. I never actually said I would go. I just asked for certain things to be done, and they were.

WS: After winning the Champions' Cup and Spanish League last seasons what do you expect from this season?

JC: Last season was magical. We achieved everything we set out to do. The hardest part comes now, trying to stay at that level. We cannot afford to drop concentration at any moment. Look at what nearly happened against Viking Stavanger! Otherwise, I think that this season we look just as good as last season. But we dare not let our guard drop, even for a moment. If we do, we'll be in serious trouble.

WS: Why?

JC: We have a programme of 61 official competitive matches this season. We could win no few than six titles! First there's the World Club Cup against Sao Paulo in Tokyo in December; then the European Super Cup against Werder Bremen; the Spanish Super Cup against Atletico Madrid; and, after all that, the small matters of the Spanish championship, the Spanish Cup and the European Champions' Cup.

WS: Is your squad up to the challenge?

JC: It's even better than last season. Goran Vucevic from Hajduk Split is a very promising youngster who is also very versatile. I'd like to think that Richard Witschge will realise the potential which persuaded us to buy him. But he has some work to do, yet.

WS: Has anyone tried to copy your style?

JC: I haven't seen anyone try. But I'm not surprised. Some people have tried but without success. At first, what we do looks simple: our style is based on possession and control of the ball. And for that you need a team of players with very high technical proficiency. Milan can do it. So can Ajax. Not many others.

WS: Your players have other commitments, don't they?

JC: I'm not happy about the way the World Cup qualifying fixtures of Holland and Bulgaria fall. As for Hristo Stoichkov, with Bulgaria, I think we can negotiate something. With Holland, of course, it's not so easy. I'm afraid we may not have Ronald Koeman with us for the World Club Cup in Tokyo because Holland play in Turkey a few days later. It's high time UEFA and FIFA got together and sorted out a proper world calendar. A couple of unfortunate fixture clashes and a year's hard work can go out of the window.

WS: Do you like the Law changes which have been introduced this year?

JC: They don't make sense to me. All they're doing is complicating life for officials, coaches and players. What's been done is a typical product of people who play their football sitting behind desks in an office and have never been out on a pitch in their lives.

WS: Which rivals do you fear most in the Champions' Cup?

JC: I'm not naive enough to say I fear only Milan. There are other fine teams waiting for us. But my greatest satisfaction is in knowing that THEY respect US. When I arrived back at Barcelona five years ago all you heard when people talked about Barcelona was our magnificent stadium and marvellous fans. Now everyone knows we can play a bit of football as well.

WS: Why didn't you bring in new faces during the close season like so many other teams did?

JC: I was satisfied with the players I had and there were a lot of good youngsters coming through. I didn't see the need to bring anyone in.

WS: Presumably, you disapprove of the way Italian clubs, for instance, are buying as many top names as possible, even if they can't get into the first team.

JC: Absolutely. If you buy big names, what on earth do you do with those you already have? Everyone was shocked when Gullit was left on the bench by Milan. But if it hadn't been him, it would have been Papin or Van Basten. What Milan and other clubs are doing is one way of thinking. But it's not the football way.

WS: Would you have left out Gullit, one of your compatriots?

JC: If I had all those overseas players to choose from, I would have started the season with those who had won the title. Then, if they didn't perform at the same level, you could replace them.

WS: It is common knowledge that if Holland qualify for the World Cup finals, you will take over as the manager in the United States. Is there not a conflict of interest?

JC: Not at all. The plan is to take over only during the finals themselves once the season with Barcelona is over. I don't see a problem with that. I know all the Dutch players and we speak the same language.

WS: Most people were surprised at the way Holland crumbled at the European Championship. Was it over-confidence?

JC: No, it's just that they didn't adjust properly. In my opinion they tried too hard. They played with too much movement. When you move too much, you are out of position too often.

WS: On the subject of football generally, do you think players are less skilful these days than they were when you played?

JC: Definitely. Ten or 15 years ago, any player could shoot with both feet and control the ball with both feet. There is still some quality around but the standard of play in Sweden saddened me. I hope that we at Barcelona show what can be done with a little technique.

WS: Talking of technique, is lack of it the reason why English football is struggling at present?

JC: The problem is lack of individual skills. Bobby Charlton was a world-class player, so was Kevin Keegan. But England no longer has such tactical skill. It's not Graham Taylor's tactics. It's the fact that England no longer have the players to outplay the opposition.

FOOTBALL '93

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PARIS ST GERMAIN

BY NICK **BIDWELL**

City of Dreams

PSG aim to end Marseille title dominance

WILL this be the season when Paris Saint-Germain break Marseille's monopoly of power in France?

Marseille have topped the French League for the past four years and have set their sights on a fifth consecutive title — which would surpass Saint-Etienne's record of four, between 1967 and 1970.

But the "Marseillais" cannot be guaranteed an easy ride this season. After all, they have had to fill a considerable void following the departures of striker Jean-Pierre Papin and chief creator Chris Waddle to Milan and Sheffield Wednesday respectively.

Marseille hope their attacking potential has not diminished, but Paris Saint-Germain appear fully equipped to mount a credible title challenge.

Last summer PSG were dealt a double blow when experienced keeper Joel Bats retired and international midfielder Christian Perez decided to leave for Monaco. But the Parisians have more than compensated with a number of wise buys.

Former Lens goalkeeper Bernard Lama, who should prove a worthy successor to Bats, has just forced his way into the full French squad. Overlapping full-back Jean-Luc Sassus arrived from Cannes, and Auxerre's cultured stopper, Alain Roche, was recruited to fortify the defence.

Not that the Saint-Germain spending spree was confined to defensive acquisitions. Metz's dynamic marksman, Francois Calderaro, was signed, and then a £5 million offer persuaded Monaco to part with Liberian striker George Weah.

"Paris Saint-Germain did not particularly impress me last year," says outspoken Montpellier chairman Louis Nicollin. "But with Weah leading their attack, they are an outstanding side."

Under the astute management of Portuguese coach Artur Jorge, the new-look PSG showed promising early form. They conceded only three goals in their opening eight League matches of 1992-93, and five wins and three draws put them on top of the table.

The Parisians certainly looked the part during their 4-0 victory at newly-promoted Strasbourg. Laurent Fournier hit a stunning volley to give PSG an eighth-minute lead, and after the restart Weah twice smashed drives past helpless keeper Sylvain Sansone. To complete the rout, Calderaro struck a late fourth.

"We have made an excellent start," says Saint-Germain vice-president Michel Denisot. "Now we must not get carried away and believe we are better than we really are.

"Our objective last year was to come in the top five and we were more than satisfied to finish third. This season we aim to improve on that, and we have the ability to do it.

"On paper, Marseille and Monaco might seem superior to us, but I have a feeling we will surprise many people."

The ambition and quiet confidence of today's PSG contrasts with the atmosphere of depression of two years ago.

Back in the spring of 1991, Paris Saint-Germain were a club in crisis. Debts of over £5 million had piled up and the side were hovering just above the relegation zone. To make matters worse, disgruntled supporters had begun to boycott games in protest at the lack of results.

"My team lacks enthusiasm and fighting spirit," admitted then coach Henri Michel.

"We appear incapable of creating chances, and when we concede a goal we fall apart.

"I have to be honest and accept that PSG are an ordinary side. I would like to buy some new players, but we do not have sufficient money to do so.

"We require a substantial injection of cash. But the reality is that nobody wants to invest in French football at the moment."

Yet Henri Michel was to be proved wrong. On May 31, 1991, a conference was called to announce that PSG's financial salvation had been secured.

A French satellite TV station, Canal Plus, bought a 49 per cent stake in the club and pledged £9 million over three years. Paris City Council promised a similar amount and agreed to use municipal funds to pay off the club's debts.

With additional support from other commercial interests — computer firm Commodore, Muller foodstuffs and Radio-Television Luxembourg — Saint-Germain supports could look forward to a brighter future.

Changes were made at boardroom level, too. After 13 years in power, president Francis Borelli stepped down in favour of advertising executive Bernard Brochand. Canal Plus presenter and football commentator Michel Denisot was brought in as vice-president to run the club's affairs.

"I was not exactly starting a new career as a football club administrator," says Denisot. "I had been the chairman of Second Division Chateauroux and that experience has been very useful in my work at PSG." Not that it was Canal's first foray into the world of football. Since going on air in November 1984, the company had built much of their appeal on excellent soccer coverage, and had become increasingly influential within footballing circles in France.

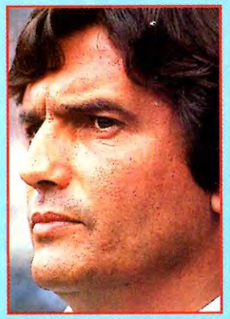
Canal Plus own the live TV rights for domestic matches and games involving France. They sponsor the national team and provide backing to club sides such as Nantes and Lyon. Indeed, it is estimated that the station has contributed £100 million to French soccer.

"Our channel's popularity is due to feature films and football. So it's in our interest to support the movie industry and soccer in France. We invest in film production because we can then show great movies to our viewers, and we hope a stronger PSG will mean a more competitive and entertaining French League, and increased ratings for us."

The financial assistance of Canal Plus and other benefactors began to pour into the club's coffers in June 1991 and the club embarked on a whirlwind period of reconstruction. Denisot engaged Jorge as coach, and the pair presided over a huge turnover of players.

No less than ten players left and nine arrived — the newcomers including Brazilian internationals Ricardo Gomes and Valdo from Benfica and the ex-Marseille midfield duo, Bruno Germain and Laurent Fournier.

Despite the difficulties of creating a side from scratch, Jorge's "new" PSG had immediate success. They completed the 1991-92 season in a creditable third place and average gates at the Parc des Princes rose from 14,000 to 26,000.



Artur Jorge (top) has reorganised PSG after the unsuccessful period under the guidance of Henri Michel (above left), with players such as David Ginola (above right) playing a major part in the renaissance.

Parisian football often struggles to make the grade. Racing Club de Paris did a League and Cup double in 1936 and added Cup wins in 1939, 40, 45 and 49, then went into decline. Massive debts forced the club to fold in 1966.

Paris effectively became a footballing desert and 14 years passed before a serious effort was made to resurrect soccer in the capital. In 1970 Paris Saint-Germain were founded and needed only one season in the Second Division to gain promotion. Two years later, however, they opted to abandon full-time soccer and the club dropped into the Third Division.

Yet all hope was not lost. In 1973 fashion designer Daniel Hechter and Radio-Television Luxembourg funded the team's return to professionalism, and within a year the reborn PSG was back in the top flight after a promotion play-off victory over Valenciennes.

Despite early difficulties in holding their own in the First Division, the Parisians began to show promise.

They were French Cup semi-finalists in 1975 and finished the 1976-77 championship in a praiseworthy ninth position.

The following season PSG were rocked by revelations of a financial scandal.

The club had sanctioned the sale of match tickets on the black market and used the cash to raise signing-on fees. Punishment was swift, and president Daniel Hechter was banned from soccer for life.

New chairman Borelli was left to pick up the pieces and after 18 disappointing months in charge, he ended the policy of hiring coaches with illustrious playing careers.

The managerial appointments of a Yugoslav, Velibor Vasovic, and the former France and Saint-Etienne captain, Jean-Michel Larque, had not produced an improvement in results, so Borelli turned to little-known ex-Lille boss Georges Peyroche.

That was an inspired choice. Peyroche was the motivational and tactical force behind the team's renaissance and his PSG — starring French internationals Luis Fernandez, Dominque Rocheteau and Dominque Bathenay — won two successive French Cups.

Monaco proved too strong for Saint-Germain in the 1985 Cup Final. But a few months later PSG started work on writing the finest chapter in the club's short history. Coach Gerard Houllier — now manager of France — watched his team begin the 1985-86 season with a 26-match unbeaten run and the club subsequently romped to their first league title.

Whereas PSG have regularly revealed a taste for domestic Cup football, in European competition they have rarely done themselves justice, and have reached the last eight on only one occasion.

"European football is a bonus for us," says vice-president Denisot.

"Our priority is the championship."

George Weah, at £5million from Monaco, is PSG's most expensive signing ever.

Paris Saint-Germain

FACT BOX

Address: 30 Avenue de Parc des Princes, 75016 Paris.

Stadium: Parc des Princes.

Capacity: 49,000

Colours: White shirts, shorts and socks, all the blue and red trim.

Founded: 1973

President: Bernard Brochand.

Coach: Artur Jorge.

HONOURS

League Champions: 1986.

French Cup: 1982, 1983.

THE COACH

ARTUR JORGE de Melo Teixeira.
Aged 46 (born February 13, 1946).

Arrived at Paris Saint-Germain in the summer of 1991 after quitting his dual role as coach of Porto and the Portuguese national team. Former Portuguese international centre-forward, playing for Porto, Academica Coimbra, Benfica and Belenenses before retiring at 31 because of a broken leg.

Obtained a doctorate in German at the University of Coimbra and graduated from East Germany's coaching school in Leipzig before joining Portugal manager Mario Wilson's staff. Went on to coach at Vitoria Guimaraes, Belenenses and Portimonense, then became the assistant of Jose Maria Pedroto at Porto. When illness forced Pedroto to step down in 1984, Jorge took over and led the club to League titles in 1985 and 1986 and victory in the 1987 Champions' Cup.

Left shortly afterwards to manage Racing Paris, but in the autumn of 1988 his wife's death prompted him to return to Portugal. Reappointed Porto coach following Joaquim Quinito's departure, and from the start of the 1989-90 season combined club duties with responsibility for Portugal's national side.

THE SQUAD

Bernard LAMA.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 29 (born April 7, 1963).
Signed from Lens last summer as replacement for the recently-retired Joel Bats. Made his professional debut with Lille and also played for Abbeville, Besancon, Metz and Brest.

Richard DUTRUEL.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 20 (born December 24, 1972).
Product of the PSG youth ranks. Helped the club to win the French Youth Cup in 1991.

Jean-Luc SASSUS.
Defender.
Aged 30 (born October 4, 1962).
Attacking right-back bought from relegated Cannes last summer. Began as a winger for Toulouse and was moved to full-back shortly after joining Cannes in 1986. French Under-21 international.

Patrick COLLETER.
Defender.
Aged 27 (born November 6, 1965).
Another former attacker converted into an accomplished full-back. Started his football life as a striker with Brest, but was unable to hold down a regular spot and was switched to left-back.

Alain ROCHE.
Defender.
Aged 25 (born October 14, 1967).
Stylish and authoritative central defender who arrived from Auxerre last summer. Made his name as a teenage member of the Bordeaux team who won the League and Cup double in 1987, and moved to Marseille in 1989. Could not settle and was transferred to Auxerre a year later.

RICARDO (Ricardo Raymundo Gomes).
Defender.
Aged 28 (born December 13, 1964).
Influential Brazilian sweeper. Discovered by Rio club Fluminense, recruited by Benfica in 1988 and joined PSG for £3 million in June 1991. Has played 36 times for Brazil and captained his country to victory in the 1989 Copa America.

Laurent FOURNIER.
Midfield.
Aged 27 (born September 14, 1964).
Right-sided midfield dynamo whose excellent early season form was rewarded with a call for autumn matches against Brazil and Bulgaria. Came through Lyon's youth scheme and signed for Saint-Etienne in 1988 and Marseille in 1991.

Vincent GUERIN.
Midfield.
Aged 27 (born November 22, 1965).
Son-in-law of Toulon boss Robert Dewilder. Signed from Montpellier last summer. Former French Under 21 cap who also played for Brest and Racing Paris.

Bruno GERMAIN.
Midfield.
Aged 32 (born April 28, 1960).
Bought from Marseille in 1991. Previously with hometown club Orleans, Nancy, Racing Paris and Toulon. A competitive midfield workhorse, often dangerous in the air at set-pieces. One full cap.

VALDO (Valdo Candido Filho).
Midfield.
Aged 28 (born January 12, 1964).
Brazilian playmaker recruited from Benfica last season. Learnt his soccer with Gremio of Porto Alegre and moved to Benfica in 1988. 47 caps.

David GINOLA.
Forward.
Aged 25 (born January 25, 1967).
One of French football's most promising attacking talents. Arrived at PSG a year ago from bankrupt Brest. One of the new faces in national manager Gerard Houllier's revamped side. Also played for Toulon and Racing Paris.

Francois CALDERARO.
Forward.
Aged 28 (born June 15, 1964).
Summer signing from Metz. Scored 19 League goals last season and finished runner-up to Papin in the French goal charts. A relative newcomer to top-flight soccer, spent most of his career with the now defunct Reims club in the Second Division.

Amara SIMBA.
Forward.
Aged 30 (born December 23, 1961).
French international striker recovering from the broken leg that forced him to miss Euro '92. Has won French TV's Goal of the Season competition for the past three years. Previously with Third Division Versailles and on loan to Cannes. Three full caps.

George WEAH.
Forward.
Aged 26 (born January 1, 1966).
Star marksman lured from Monaco last summer for £5 million. Born in Liberia, played for local clubs Young Survival and Invincible Eleven and from there moved to Cameroon's Tonnerre Yaounde. In 1988 Monaco paid £300,000 for him and Weah repaid that investment with 47 League goals in 103 matches. African Footballer of the Year in 1989.

Daniel BRAVO.
Forward.
Aged 29 (born February 9, 1963).
Gifted attacker who has not quite managed to fulfil the potential he showed as a teenager at Nice in the early 1980s. A member of the French squad who won the 1984 European Championship, and now has 13 caps. Joined PSG in 1989.

The new Intercontinental Cup: **GARY BLOOM** reports from Riyadh

Desert delights

ON A WARM October night in Saudi Arabia, a group of footballers from South America were crammed round a TV screen watching live pictures of a World Cup qualifier taking place 2,500 miles away.

The match was England v Norway at Wembley. The players watching were Argentine and after the game there were a few telling winks and smiles. They were not too impressed with Graham Taylor's side.

Argentina were in Saudi Arabia for the latest addition to FIFA's international tournaments — the Intercontinental Cup for the King Fahd Trophy.

The teams taking part were the US (Gold Cup Winners), Saudi Arabia (Asian Cup winners), Argentina (Copa America winners) and Ivory Coast (African Nations' Cup winners). Denmark, the European Champions were unable to participate because of World Cup commitments. The competition was split into two semi-finals, a third-and-fourth place play-off, and a final.

Saudi Arabia had decided to organise the competition with the fervour of a World Cup. The country's leaders are still deliberating whether to throw their hat into the ring as a possible host for the 2002 World Cup — the smart money suggests the event will be staged in Japan — but Saudi left nothing to chance.

Argentina look so good without Maradona

Top shots . . . Claudio Caniggia (above) and Gabriel Batistuta (left) in action against Saudi Arabia.

New trophy . . . Argentina skipper Oscar Ruggeri (below) shows off the King Fahd Trophy.

All the matches were played in the King Fahd Stadium, a 70,000 all-seat ground that could drag football venues into the 21st century.

The arena, designed like a circle of white Bedouin tents, has two fully operational hospitals, a royal box which dripped gold, two five-a-side gyms for the players to warm up, a press enclosure the size of a banquet hall, and a fully-integrated TV studio complex that could beam pictures of the matches around the world.

If the Saudi Arabian team could match the opulence of their stadium, they would be world champions in the making.

In the first match of the competition, against the US, Saudi locked on to the fast forward button at the start of the second half.

With the aid of an eccentric refereeing decision, they took the lead from a penalty. Saudi, urged on by a huge vocal following then scored twice more and the US had Brian Quinn sent off for a clumsy foul.

Argentina spent most of their final training session taking and defending free-kicks. They need not have bothered. With forwards such as Claudio Caniggia and Gabriel Batistuta, both playing their club football in Italy, Argentina were oozing goals.

They scored twice in the first ten minutes against Ivory Coast — Batistuta hit both — and went on to win 4-0. Caniggia made three goals, and intimidated Abouo Sam Dominque to such an extent that he was sent off for illegal use of an elbow.

The US were holding conferences to confirm their readiness to stage World Cup '94, but the delegation must have been concerned at the quality of the side beaten by Saudi Arabia.

By now the European-based players had left the camp. Roy Wegerle had flown back to Blackburn, John Harkes to Sheffield Wednesday. Yet in their play-off game the US rallied well to beat Ivory Coast 5-2, and take third place. Bruce Murray scored twice.

On the following night Saudis packed their national stadium for the most important game ever held on Saudi soil.

Their team were leaving for Japan in a few days, to prepare for the defence of their Asian Cup.

They had been together for three months. Three years ago the Saudi Arabian under-16s had won the World Youth Championship in Scotland. That team was beginning to mature.

But Argentina's experienced players made light work of a Saudi team who attacked from the start with frantic desperation. Two goals in a five-minute spell in the first half effectively sealed the game. Leo Rodriguez hit the first, Caniggia the second.

In the second half Simeone crashed in a third after Batistutua's shot had come back off a post, and despite a handling error by Goycochea that gave the Saudis a goal, Argentina carried on to win easily enough.

They will look back on this competition with a lot of satisfaction. Redondo, their baby-faced midfield general, was the player of the tournament. Simeone, who plays with Maradona at Sevilla, was outstanding, too. Caniggia and Batistuta will score goals against better defences than Ivory Coast and Saudi Arabia.

So Argentina have a very bright future, although some inside their camp fear that Maradona's return will disrupt more than he will create. The class of '92 are doing fine without him.

Saudi Arabia have offered to host this competition permanently every two years. FIFA will have to decide whether it returns to Riyadh, or give another continent a chance.

More importantly they need the involvement of Europe's champions to set this tournament in stone in the international calendar.

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP

SEMI-FINALS

SAUDI ARABIA *Albishi 48 (pen)* *Althunyan 74* *Almuwallid 84*	3	**UNITED STATES** **Att:** 70,000	0
ARGENTINA *Batistuta 2, 10* *Altamirano 67* *Acosta 81*	4	**IVORY COAST** **Att:** 15,000	0

THIRD-PLACE MATCH

UNITED STATES *Balboa 12* *Jones 31* *Wynalda 56* *Murray 67, 83*	5	**IVORY COAST** *Traore 16* *Sie 76* **Att:** 9,500	2

FINAL

ARGENTINA *Rodriguez 18* *Caniggia 24* *Simeone 64*	3	**SAUDI ARABIA** *Owairan 65* **Att:** 72,000	1

INTERCONTINENTAL CUP SQUADS

SAUDI ARABIA

1 ..... S. **ALOTAIBI**
2 ..... A. **ALDOSARI**
3 ..... S. **ALWI**
4 ..... A. **ALROOMI**
5 ..... M. **ALKHLAWI**
6 ..... F. **AMIN**
7 ..... S. **OWAIRAN**
8 ..... F. **ALBISHI**
9 ..... H. **FALATAH**
10 ..... S. **ALJABER**
11 ..... F. **MEHALEL**
12 ..... A. **ALANAZI**
14 ..... K. **ALMUWALLID**
15 ..... Y. **ALTHUNYAN**
16 ..... K. **ALHAZAA**
17 ..... A. **ALDOSARI**
18 ..... S. **ALDAWOD**
19 ..... H. **SALEH**
20 ..... A. **ALRZQAN**
21 ..... S. **ALSHUJAA**

ARGENTINA

1 ..... Sergio **GOYCOCHEA**
2 ..... Sergio **VASQUEZ**
3 ..... Ricardo **ALTAMIRANO**
4 ..... Fabian **BASUALDO**
5 ..... Fernando **REDONDO**
6 ..... Oscar **RUGGERI**
7 ..... Claudio **CANIGGIA**
8 ..... Jose **VILLARREAL**
9 ..... Gabriel **BATISTUTA**
10 ..... Diego **SIMEONE**
11 ..... Diego **GAGNA**
12 ..... Luis **ISLAS**
14 ..... Alberto **ACOSTA**
15 ..... Jorge **BORELLI**
16 ..... Claudio **GARCIA**
18 ..... Nestor **CRAVIOTTO**
20 ... Leonardo **RODRIGUEZ**
21 ... Fabian **CANCELARICH**

UNITED STATES

1 ..... Tony **MEOLA**
2 ..... Janusz **MICHALLIK**
3 ..... Mike **LAPPER**
4 ..... Bruce **MURRAY**
6 ..... John **HARKES**
7 ..... Hugo **PEREZ**
8 ..... Dominic **KINNEAR**
9 ..... Tab **RAMOS**
10 ..... Peter **VERMES**
11 ..... Eric **WYNALDA**
13 ..... Cobi **JONES**
14 ..... Brian **QUINN**
15 ..... John **DEBRITO**
16 ..... Jean **HARBOR**
17 ..... Marcelo **BALBOA**
18 ..... Mark **DODD**
19 ..... Chris **HENDERSON**
20 ..... Paul **CALIGIURI**
21 ..... Fernando **CLAVIJO**

IVORY COAST

1 ..... Guiahauli G. **ALIAN**
2 ..... Aka **KOUAME**
3 ..... Hobou **ARSENE**
4 ..... Kone **BRAHIMA**
5 ..... Lue Biahe **RUFIN**
6 ..... Diaby **SEKANA**
7 ..... C.S. Joseph **GADJI**
8 ..... Oumar **BEN SALAH**
10 ..... Abdoulaye **TRAORE**
12 ..... Lignor **NAGUEU**
14 ... Kouadio Lucien **KASSY**
16 ..... Konate **LOSSENI**
17 ..... Serge Alain **MAGUY**
18 ... Yago Eugene **BEUGRE**
19 Abouo Sam **DOMINIQUE**
20 ..... Alain Michel **BEDE**
21 ..... Donald Olivier **SIE**
22 ..... Dao **LASSINA**

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Closing date Monday 30th November. All usual World Soccer competition rules apply.

Q1. How many times has Papin been capped for France?

Q2. Who was top scorer for AC Milan last season?

Q3. In what year will AC Milan celebrate their centenary?

Last month's World Cup qualifying matches in Europe provided some surprising results, and unpleasant shocks for England, Italy and Holland. JOHN KELLY looks at the action from a busy night of international football.

Europe's new wave threaten the old order

DENMARK'S victory at the European Championship last summer was proof, if any was needed, that the balance of power in European football is changing.

In the span of a decade the gulf between Europe's traditional heavyweights and middleweight contenders has narrowed drastically, to the point where we have difficulty seeing it at all.

Ten years ago England recorded their fifth victory out of five over Norway, with a comfortable 4-0 win in a World Cup qualifier at Wembley. Ten years on, the two nations met again in similar circumstances, but with a very different result. Norway's class of '92 went to Wembley brimming with confidence after two victories against one of Europe's flyweights — San Marino, one by ten goals to nil — and a 2-1 victory over one of the heavyweights, Holland.

Celebrating . . . Norwegian players after their 1-1 draw at Wembley.

The 1-1 draw at Wembley would have been hailed as a national disaster by the English press ten years ago. Not today. They glossed over the fact that England had opened their World Cup campaign by dropping a point — the first time this had happened, and at home — by concentrating on the positive points of the England performance and in particular on Paul Gascoigne's return.

Even manager Graham Taylor seemed relatively pleased with the outcome, refusing to criticise his players and brushing aside all suggestion of disappointment with the result, if not the performance, with a nonchalance his predecessors would not have dared use.

The attitude of the English press seemed to be: a point dropped, but not the end of the world. Probably not the end of the World Cup for England either.

But the result underlines the fact that Norway, like many other "lesser" European nations, are no longer there simply to make up the numbers.

It is not just England who are feeling the effects of this realignment. Some of Europe's other heavyweights are finding that there are no easy home games any more.

The relief on the Italian bench when, with seconds remaining, Stefano Eranio scored the equaliser in a 2-2 draw, was plain to see. Nothing odd about that, except that the match was at home against Switzerland.

In the past this fixture would have been a certain home win but in the event, two mistakes by Torino goalkeeper Luca Marchegiani gave the Swiss a 2-0 half-time lead.

Even Iceland show there are no easy games

Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi decided not to give his side a pep talk during the break, preferring to let them get themselves out of the mess they had got into on their own.

They did so but only thanks to two goals in the last seven minutes, to salvage a point which, like England, was the first they had dropped in an opening World Cup qualifier.

Holland also are feeling the pressure. Their campaign opened with the unexpected 2-1 defeat in Oslo and was followed by a 2-2 draw at home to Poland in Rotterdam. The Dutch, like the Italians, went 2-0 down and had to battle back to earn a point thanks to two goals by Anderlecht's Peter Van Vossen.

For some years Poland have been one of the better middleweight contenders but still would have been expected to fall in Holland.

Even Iceland, for so long one of Europe's whipping boys, proved they are no longer a pushover. They displayed their development with a 2-1 win against Hungary in Budapest last June and then went to Moscow and held Russia to a single goal — scored by Sergei Yuran, a Ukrainian who has opted to play for Russia.

The development of Norway, Switzerland and Iceland is matched by other countries branded "minnows" a decade or so ago, the Republic of Ireland and Denmark being prime examples. They met in Copenhagen and, thanks largely to Pat Bonner's saves, the Irish earned a 0-0 draw to keep them on top of the group.

Richard Moller Nielsen is not so happy. Since winning in Sweden his side have been beaten by Germany in a friendly and have drawn their three opening World Cup matches 0-0.

This puts the Danes in a difficult position in a very tough group. A win in Belfast this month would ease the pressure but, as Spain found last month, winning in Belfast is not an easy task these days either.

Veteran manager Billy Bingham's Northern Ireland held the technically-superior Spanish to a 0-0 draw, with Newcastle goalkeeper Tommy Wright outstanding. Bingham was delighted with Wright's display, enthusing: "At last I have found the successor to Pat Jennings." High praise indeed.

Scotland and Wales also were in World Cup action, with the Scots fortunate to avoid defeat in a 0-0 draw at home to Portugal.

Futre tormented the defence, deprived of McKimmie, McPherson and Gough through injury and suspension, but could not find a way past Goram.

With Hampden undergoing refurbishment the match was played at Ibrox. Only 22,583 turned up — scant reward for Scotland's displays in Sweden.

Wales secured the only British win of the night, in Cyprus. Mark Hughes's first international goal for two years clinched two points and keeps the Welsh challenge alive, after it almost had been strangled at birth by the 5-1 hammering in Romania last May.

France bounced back from the 2-0 defeat in Bulgaria to beat Austria 2-0 at home. Two of Gerard Houllier's foreign legion, Jean-Pierre Papin of Milan and Eric Cantona of Leeds, got the goals.

Most of Europe will be locked in World Cup battles again this month, and no doubt there will be a few more surprising outcomes.

Results like those in London, Rotterdam, Cagliari and Moscow are becoming more frequent as the quality level rises across the continent.

Denmark showed in Sweden that if you have the teamwork, skill and determination, history counts for nothing.

Yesterday's minnows can become serious challengers, as Norway, Switzerland and a few other ex-tiddlers are proving.

Charging . . . Italy's Lentini crashes through the Swiss defence.

WorldCupUSA94

★ Results, tables and fixtures for the remainder of 1992 ★

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

Italy, Scotland, Portugal, Switzerland, Malta, Estonia.

16.08.92 Estonia v Switzerland 0-6
09.09.92 Switzerland v Scotland 3-1
14.10.92 Italy v Switzerland 2-2
14.10.92 Scotland v Portugal 0-0
25.10.92 Malta v Estonia 0-0
18.11.92 Scotland v Italy
18.11.92 Switzerland v Malta
19.12.92 Malta v Italy

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Switzerland	3	2	1	0	11	3	5
Italy	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Malta	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Portugal	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Scotland	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Estonia	2	0	1	1	0	6	1

GROUP 2

England, Holland, Poland, Norway, Turkey, San Marino.

09.09.92 Norway v San Marino 10-0
23.09.92 Norway v Holland 2-1
23.09.92 Poland v Turkey 1-0
07.10.92 San Marino v Norway 0-2
14.10.92 England v Norway 1-1
14.10.92 Holland v Poland 2-2
28.10.92 Turkey v San Marino
18.11.92 England v Turkey
16.12.92 Turkey v Holland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	4	3	1	0	15	2	7
Poland	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
England	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Holland	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Turkey	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
San Marino	2	0	0	2	0	12	0

GROUP 3

Spain, Republic of Ireland, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Albania, Lithuania, Latvia.

22.04.92 Spain v Albania 3-0
28.04.92 Northern Ireland v Lithuania 2-2
26.05.92 Rep. of Ireland v Albania 2-0
03.06.92 Albania v Lithuania 1-0
12.08.92 Latvia v Lithuania 1-2
26.08.92 Latvia v Denmark 0-0
09.09.92 Rep. of Ireland v Latvia 4-0
09.09.92 Northern Ireland v Albania 3-0
23.09.92 Latvia v Spain 0-0
23.09.92 Lithuania v Denmark 0-0
14.10.92 Denmark v Rep. of Ireland 0-0
14.10.92 Northern Ireland v Spain 0-0
28.10.92 Lithuania v Latvia
11.11.92 Albania v Latvia
18.11.92 Northern Ireland v Denmark
18.11.92 Spain v Rep. of Ireland
16.12.92 Spain v Latvia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rep. of Ireland	3	2	1	0	6	0	5
N. Ireland	3	1	2	0	5	2	4
Spain	3	1	2	0	3	0	4
Lithuania	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Denmark	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
Latvia	4	0	2	2	1	6	2
Albania	4	1	0	3	1	8	2

GROUP 4

Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Wales, Cyprus, Faroe Islands.

22.04.92 Belgium v Cyprus 1-0
06.05.92 Romania v Faroe Islands 7-0
20.05.92 Romania v Wales 5-1
03.06.92 Faroe Islands v Belgium 0-3
18.06.92 Faroe Islands v Cyprus 0-2
02.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Belgium 1-2
09.09.92 Wales v Faroe Islands 6-0
23.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands 4-0
14.10.92 Belgium v Romania 1-0
14.10.92 Cyprus v Wales 0-1
14.11.92 Romania v Czechoslovakia
18.11.92 Wales v Belgium
29.11.92 Cyprus v Romania

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	4	4	0	0	7	1	8
Romania	3	2	0	1	12	2	4
Wales	3	2	0	1	8	5	4
Czechoslovakia	2	1	0	1	5	2	2
Cyprus	3	1	0	2	2	2	2
Faroe Islands	5	0	0	5	0	22	0

GROUP 5

Russia, Hungary, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg.

13.05.92 Greece v Iceland 1-0
03.06.92 Hungary v Iceland 1-2
09.09.92 Luxembourg v Hungary 0-3
07.10.92 Iceland v Greece 0-1
14.10.92 Russia v Iceland 1-0
28.10.92 Russia v Luxembourg
11.11.92 Greece v Hungary
★ *Yugoslavia suspended.*

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Hungary	2	1	0	1	4	2	2
Russia	1	1	0	0	1	0	2
Iceland	4	1	0	3	2	4	2
Luxembourg	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

GROUP 6

France, Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria, Finland, Israel.

14.05.92 Finland v Bulgaria 0-3
09.09.92 Bulgaria v France 2-0
09.09.92 Finland v Sweden 0-1
07.10.92 Sweden v Bulgaria 3-0
14.10.92 France v Austria 2-0
28.10.92 Austria v Israel
11.11.92 Israel v Sweden
14.11.92 France v Finland
02.12.92 Israel v Bulgaria

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	3	2	0	1	5	2	4
Sweden	2	2	0	0	3	0	4
France	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Austria	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Finland	2	0	0	2	0	4	0
Israel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

Algeria, Ghana, Burundi.

09.10.92 Algeria v Burundi 3-1
25.10.92 Burundi v Ghana
20.12.92 Ghana v Algeria
★ *Uganda withdrew*

GROUP B

Cameroon, Zaire, Liberia, Swaziland.

11.10.92 Zaire v Liberia 4-2
18.10.92 Cameroon v Swaziland 5-0
25.10.92 Liberia v Cameroon
25.10.92 Swaziland v Zaire
20.12.92 Swaziland v Liberia
20.12.92 Zaire v Cameroon

GROUP C

Egypt, Zimbabwe, Togo, Angola.

11.10.92 Egypt v Angola 1-0
11.10.92 Zimbabwe v Togo 1-0
25.10.92 Angola v Zimbabwe
25.10.92 Togo v Egypt
20.12.92 Angola v Togo
20.12.92 Zimbabwe v Egypt
★ *Sierra Leone withdrew, Togo replaced them.*

GROUP D

Nigeria, Congo, South Africa.

10.10.92 Nigeria v South Africa 4-0
25.10.92 South Africa v Congo
20.12.92 Congo v Nigeria
★ *Sao Tome e Principe withdrew, Libya were suspended.*

GROUP E

Ivory Coast, Niger, Botswana.

10.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana 6-0
25.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast
20.12.92 Botswana v Niger
★ *Sudan withdrew*

GROUP F

Morocco, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Benin.

11.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia 5-0
11.10.92 Tunisia v Benin 5-1
25.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia
25.10.92 Benin v Morocco
20.12.92 Tunisia v Morocco
20.12.92 Ethiopia v Benin
★ *Malawi withdrew, Benin replaced them.*

GROUP G

Senegal, Gabon, Mozambique.

11.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique 3-1
25.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal
19.12.92 Gabon v Senegal
★ *Mauritania withdrew*

GROUP H

Zambia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Namibia.

10.10.92 Zambia v Tanzania 2-0
11.01.92 Madagascar v Namibia 3-0
24.10.92 Tanzania v Madagascar
25.10.92 Namibia v Zambia
19.12.92 Tanzania v Namibia
20.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia
★ *Burkina Faso withdrew, Namibia replaced them.*

GROUP I

Kenya, Guinea, Mali.

11.10.92 Guinea v Mali* 2-0
* *Mali forfeited match*
25.10.92 Mali v Kenya
20.12.92 Guinea v Kenya
★ *Gambia withdrew*

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Winners of Group A play (home & away) against winners of Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Second Round

GROUP A

08.11.92 Costa Rica v Honduras
08.11.92 St Vincent v Mexico
15.11.92 Mexico v Honduras
15.11.92 St Vincent v Costa Rica
22.11.92 Mexico v Costa Rica
22.11.92 St Vincent v Honduras
28.11.92 Honduras v St Vincent
29.11.92 Costa Rica v Mexico
05.12.92 Honduras v Costa Rica
06.12.92 Mexico v St Vincent
13.12.92 Costa Rica v St Vincent
13.12.92 Honduras v Mexico

GROUP B

18.10.92 Jamaica v Canada 1-1
18.10.92 Bermuda v El Salvador 1-0
25.10.92 El Salvador v Canada 1-1
25.10.92 Bermuda v Jamaica 1-1
01.11.92 Canada v Jamaica
01.11.92 El Salvador v Bermuda
08.11.92 Canada v El Salvador
08.11.92 Jamaica v Bermuda
15.11.92 Canada v Bermuda
22.11.92 Jamaica v El Salvador
06.12.92 Bermuda v Canada
06.12.92 El Salvador v Jamaica

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

GROUP 1

Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Australia

11.07.92 Solomon Islands v Tahiti 1-1
04.09.92 Solomon Islands v Australia 1-2
11.09.92 Tahiti v Australia 0-3
20.09.92 Australia v Tahiti 2-0
25.09.92 Australia v Solomon Islands 6-1
09.10.92 Tahiti v Solomon Islands 4-2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	4	0	0	13	2	8
Tahiti	4	1	1	2	5	8	3
Solomon Islands	4	0	1	3	5	13	1

GROUP 2

New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu.

07.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji 3-0
27.06.92 Vanuatu v New Zealand 1-4
01.07.92 New Zealand v Vanuatu 8-0
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu 3-0
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand 0-0
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji 0-3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Zealand	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
Fiji	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Vanuatu	4	0	0	4	1	18	0

Who, what, where, when . . . **CRIS FREDDI** produces facts and figures from previous clashes between World Cup rivals

ENGLAND TURKEY

ENGLAND'S RECORD:
P5 W4 D1 F22 A0

TOWARDS the end of last season Turkey were looking the easiest of meat after more than 18 months without a win. Then they beat Luxembourg and surprisingly did well against both forthcoming European finalists: beating Denmark, losing only 1-0 to Germany. Welcome reprieves for manager Sepp Piontek against the country he once coached and the one he played for.

In the first England-Turkey match, a World Cup qualifier in Izmir in 1984, Bryan Robson became the first England captain to score a hat trick since Vivian Woodward against Austria in 1909.

John Barnes has twice scored two goals in a game for England, each time against Turkey: in 1984 and at Wembley in 1987.

Neil Webb scored his first international goal in 1987, against the Turks, and Gary Lineker scored his second hat-trick. The first, his first for England, was in the World Cup qualifier at Wembley in 1985, when Chris Waddle scored his first England goal.

Goalkeeper Yasar Duran conceded 13 goals in the two matches against England in 1984 and 1985.

Clive Allen had a goal very dubiously disallowed in Izmir in 1987; it would have been his only goal for England, in a season when he scored 49 in total.

SCOTLAND ITALY

SCOTLAND'S RECORD:
P4 W1 L3 F1 A8

SCOTLAND have won the only match at home and lost all three away without scoring. Their goal was scored by John Greig two minutes from the end of the World Cup qualifier at Hampden in November 1965.

Greig was captain when the teams met in Naples the following month. This time, after English League managers (including important Scots such as Shankly and Busby) had typically refused to rearrange fixtures or release players, Jock Stein had to pick a makeshift team, who lost 3-0, to end all hopes of qualifying for the 1966 finals.

The first match, in 1931, was played four days after a 5-0 thrashing in Vienna, Scotland's first defeat by a country from outside Britain. Scotland lost again, 3-0.

The latest match, in Perugia in 1988, was part of a sequence in which Italy lost only once in 27 games, including the whole of Italia '90.

Scotland were perhaps unlucky to lose (the first goal came from a harsh penalty by Giuseppe Giannini) but were never very likely to score: Italy conceded only seven goals in those 27 matches.

WALES BELGIUM

WALES'S RECORD:
P4 W2 D1 L1 F10 A6

THERE were two matches in 1949, then none before the 1992 European Championship qualifiers.

In 1949, Wales lost 3-1 in Liege after being 3-0 down at half-time, Trevor Ford scoring a consolation goal. At Ninian Park six months later, Ford scored a hat-trick as Wales won 5-1 (half-time 4-0). Belgium's last-minute goal came from the dynamic Rik Coppens, in his second international.

Wales picked all three top strikers for the European qualifier in Cardiff in October 1990: Rush, Saunders and Hughes. Each scored (Rush his first international goal for 28 months) as Wales came from behind to win 3-1.

Saunders scored again, an equaliser this time, when Wales drew the return in March 1991, after 77 Welsh fans had been deported for rampaging through Brussels.

N. IRELAND DENMARK

NORTHERN IRELAND'S RECORD:
P5 W1 D2 L2 F5 A9

THE Irish have never lost, or indeed conceded a goal, against reigning European champions, beating West Germany 1-0 home and away in the 1984 European qualifiers (goals by Ian Stewart and Norman Whiteside), holding France 0-0 in 1986 and 1988.

Ireland won the first match in the series, a European qualifier in 1978, with goals from Derek Spence (substitute for Sammy Morgan) and Trevor Anderson (substitute for Spence). Morgan and Anderson did not win another cap.

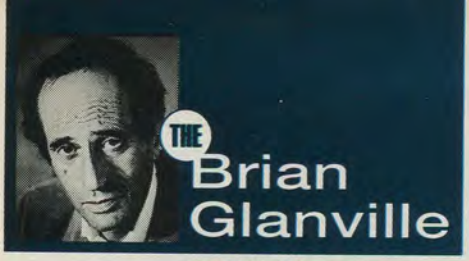
Denmark have won both their home matches, each a European Championship qualifier: 4-0 in 1979 (their only win in the group) thanks to a goal from Allan Simonsen and a Preben Elkjaer hat-trick — and 2-1 in 1991.

REP. of IRELAND SPAIN

THE REPUBLIC'S RECORD:
P21 W4 D5 L12 F16 A44

EIRE have scored in only two of the last nine matches against Spain, including three in Dublin in 1982, when they recovered from 3-1 down. In 1965 they met three times in the World Cup, the last a play-off in Paris. Jose Ufarte scored the only goal to send Spain to the finals in England.

The lone hat-trick was by Jesus Maria Pereda in the first of those 1965 matches, a 4-1 win in Seville.



MYSTERY

What did Neuberger do in the war?

HERMANN NEUBERGER has gone, leaving behind him a mystery. What did this most authoritarian of football administrators, head of the German FA, a FIFA vice-president, do in Rome, during the war?

The rumour had long been that he was a member of the S.S. Eventually I asked the well-informed Horst Dassler, mentor of adidas, whether this was true. He said it wasn't. Then what did Neuberger (right) get up to?

Horst was reluctant to speak at first, but finally said: "He was in charge of reprisals against partisans."

Most of us know what that meant, even if I had no evidence to suggest that Neuberger was in any way involved with the massacre of the Fosse Ardeatine, when over 300 innocent, hostages were shot as a reprisal for a bomb attack on an S.S. patrol in Rome.

Time and again, I have felt close to discovering what role Neuberger played in the war. I was told of a journalist in London who knows all about it, but he has sworn never to speak, and my informant was not prepared to give his name.

I suppose the ultimate irony was that Neuberger should be put in charge of the World Cup, when it took place in Italy in 1990, with the Final in Rome. A German magazine had attacked him pitilessly at the time of the 1986 World Cup, but it left no apparent mark.

The magazine made grave accusations against Neuberger, including one of financial impropriety, alleging that he had embezzled the proceeds of the publicity sold for a charity match in Switzerland.

I remember Neuberger for another displeasing episode, during the World Cup of 1974. This involved the Haiti centre-half Jean-Joseph, who tested positive for dope after the match in Munich against Italy.

I saw Jean-Joseph sitting wan and silent in a hotel lobby. Well might he be fearful, for the brutal Tons Tons Macoutes had virtually run Haiti for years.

In the event, Jean-Joseph was hustled out of the Sports Centre at Grunewald by a group of them, while the officer in charge beat him. This horrified the kind and decent Herr Renner, who was in charge of the centre, and he boldly made public protest.

So did a pleasant Polish girl who had met Jean-Joseph while working in the Press Centre. Jean-Joseph had been locked in a room in central Munich, and heaven alone knew what would happen to him when they got him back to Haiti. Hardly comforting to know that Larry Gaetjens, who had scored the goal whereby the US beat England in that sensational match at Belo Horizonte during the 1950 World Cup, had eventually vanished in his native Haiti, without trace.

In the event, Jean-Joseph survived, thank goodness, but with no thanks for Neuberger.

As for what he did or didn't do in Rome, I have been told that Horst Dassler probably got his information from East Germany. If that is true, will it now be released?

Neuberger (right) is still a figure of controversy

MODEST

Platt makes the best of it

ALTHOUGH Giovanni Trapattoni has been back at Juventus for over a season now, things still don't really turn round.

Not least because of another strange summer transfer policy, which has again left Juve with an unbalanced team, and David Platt in a difficult situation.

Being Platt, the essence of maturity, objectivity, modesty and adaptability, he didn't complain, despite the fact that the unexpected arrival of Andy Moller, who quickly became a favourite of the club's powerful, capricious patron, Gianni Agnelli, left Juve in the position of the Pope's Army, in the old Roman joke, ten generals and one soldier.

Moller, scoring splendid goals at home but doing much less away, quickly consolidated his position in a team lacking a true schemer and the kind of natural wing-half Tardelli and Furino had been. This forced Platt, whose strength is his powerful surges from midfield into the penalty box, to play a deeper role.

He insisted that this was nothing new, that he'd always got forward, and been able to get back. But how far back? Dramatic transition from a febrile Deep South city, Bari, to the cooler, more urbane Turin, from a minor club to the most famous in Italy, has been taken in Platt's stride.

In Bari, he recalled, people would kiss him in the street, would run out of their shops to give him presents when he had scored a couple of goals. He was extremely happy there; but no less contented in Turin.

He stayed at first in the same hotel as Moller, and their relations were excellent.

Platt was full of praise for his new team-mates. When you got the ball now, there were so many options.

If you gave it to one player, several others would complain you hadn't passed to them. And you could pass to Roberto Baggio, however tightly he was marked.

All smiles . . . Platt with Juventus skipper Roberto Baggio.

MIXTURE

Gascoigne's not always a good boy

PAUL GASCOIGNE has been outstandingly the finest English player of his generation. I was one of the first to salute him, and to urge his inclusion in the England team when many of my colleagues, and certainly Bobby Robson, were far less convinced.

By the time you read this, goodness knows what will have happened to him in Rome. He may have become the towering, sublime hero the enraptured Lazio fans want him to be, or he may not.

The knee injury he suffered against Genoa was not serious Lazio insisted, though had he been fully match fit, I am sure he would never have got it in the first place. The tackle would not have touched him.

My reception by Gazza at the Lazio training ground consisted of a volley of abuse, with gestures to match. Footballers' memories can be short. Gascoigne was upset by my belief that Lazio are the wrong club for him, Rome the wrong city.

But his relations with the Press have been pretty disastrous for over two years now, even though he, of all players, had every reason to thank the Press rather than damn it.

The turning point, perhaps, came during the 1990 World Cup, in which he figured with such brilliance. The relations between the England party and the Press were appalling, and Gascoigne seemed affected by the general, hostile atmosphere.

At a training ground outside Bologna, shortly before the match against Belgium, he leaned out of the England coach and threw a cup of water — in the direction of Paul Parker and *The Evening Standard's* Michael Hart, who were in the middle of an interview.

Since then, things have hardly improved. Above all, Gascoigne made the bizarre mistake of "punishing" the Roman Press for offences he attributed to the English Press in general, and *The Daily Mirror* in particular.

This all seemed a storm in a teacup at the time, but with Lazio, and their new Press officer, my old friend Mario Penacchia, pitching in on Gazza's side, it began to take on ominous dimensions.

I was not at the training ground the day Gazza, during a training game, threw down his bib in frustration. This was duly reported by English journalists, the implication in some quarters being that there had been s slight tiff with Dino Zoff, the coach.

I don't think it occurred. The Italian Press were at pains to say it didn't, but Gascoigne included them in his two weeks of Press silence, just the same.

Since they had been eating out of his hand from the moment to go to Rome, insisting that he and his cronies had been no trouble, that all had been sweetness and light, it seemed an inexplicable thing to do. And still more inexplicable for a greatly experienced journalist like Penacchia to support.

That kind of thing is all very well when you are on top. But when what might be called the Phoney War is still in progress, it is treading on dangerous ground.

Lazio were rash in putting him out against Spurs, a match — if you can even dignify it with such a word — which in the event posed no threat to him: but also clearly showed he was far from match fit.

Despite that, at the apparent insistence of the Lazio president, Sergio Cragnotti, Gascoigne was fielded in place of the fully fit Aron Winter on the Sunday, made but a modest contribution against Genoa, and went off just before half-time after a tackle which he surely would have anticipated and avoided had he been truly fit.

The young Lazio fans adore Gazza and are not put out by any of his escapades. If anything, as Roman football journalists will tell you, they make him all the more endearing.

Zoff, that grave, good man who kept goal for Italy until he was well over 40, has been another to indulge Gascoigne.

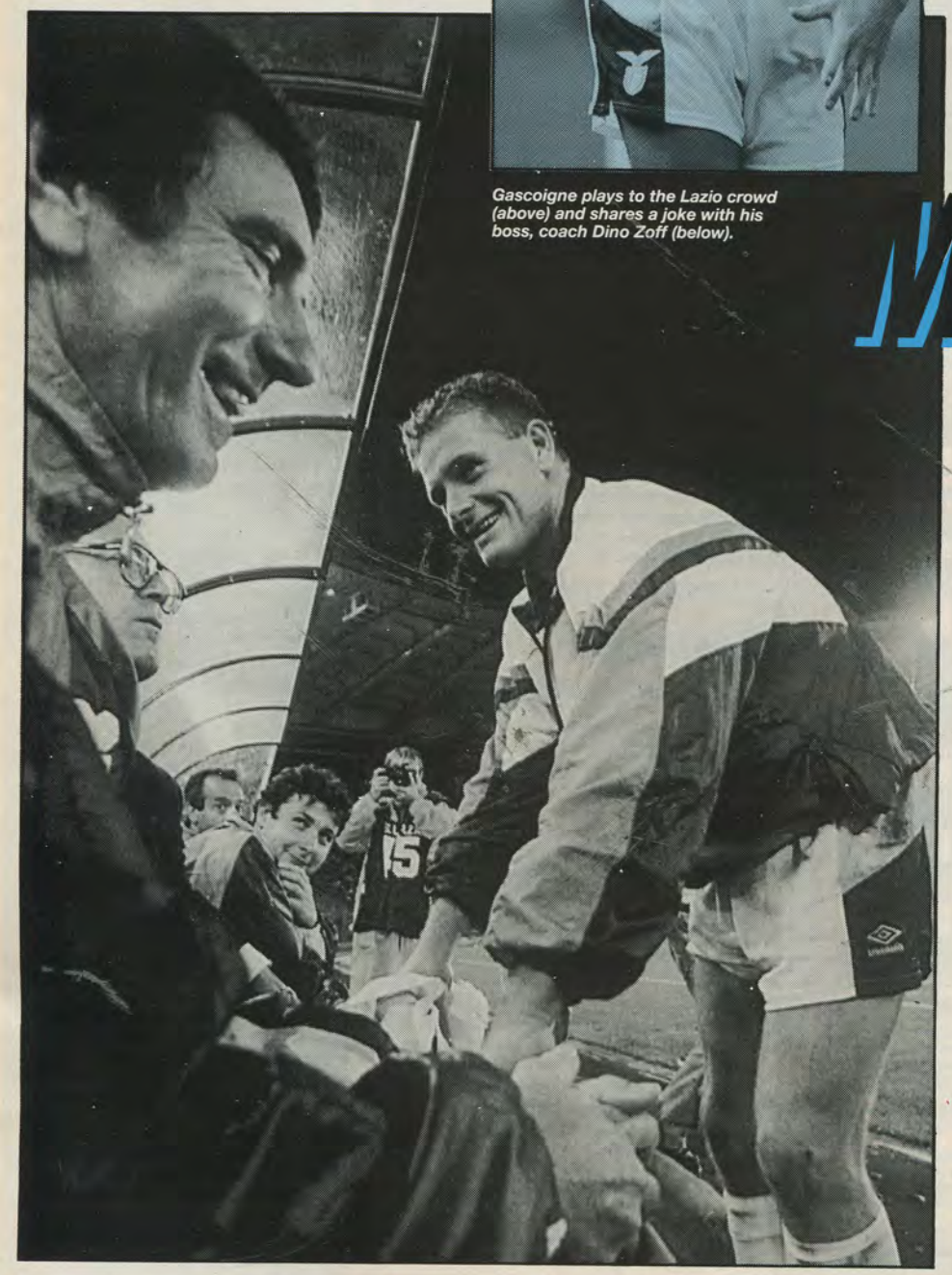
This, I have felt, because he saw in Gazza his main means of climbing out of trouble. Zoff made an excellent job of managing his old club, Juventus, and was sacked in the most ridiculous circumstances: ironically to make room for Gigi Maifredi, who failed hopelessly.

In the very season when he knew he'd be sacked, Zoff won both the UEFA Cup and the Italian Cup. Maifredi, changing unsuccessfully to a zonal game, won nothing.

Rome was never going to be the right city for the taciturn, decent, honest, straightforward Zoff. Hard indeed to be a football manager there.

The measure of Zoff's anxiety, after a season which ended with Lazio fans besieging his car and insulting him at the training ground, where armed police had to be brought in to protect him and the players, was his eulogising of Gascoigne. All those stories about his behaviour in England, said Zoff, stars (or a star) in his eyes, were clearly untrue. Gascoigne was a Good Boy, as well as a fantastic player.

Wish fulfilment was clearly at the root of all this. Gazza was the Moses who would lead Lazio into the promised land. The old Zoff, the true Zoff, would never have been quite so sanguine. Realising, among other things, that a shockingly heavy burden was on Gascoigne's shoulders.



Gascoigne plays to the Lazio crowd (above) and shares a joke with his boss, coach Dino Zoff (below).

letters

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A sour little item

SIR — There are several things to be said about Brian Glanville's sour little item on my projected study of Paul Gascoigne, and I will be saying them elsewhere.

Immediately, though, can I make two things clear:

1. The "yob of Europe" quotation was from a publisher who no longer has an interest in the book. I deplored it at the time and I still do.

2. I have nothing but admiration for Paul Gascoigne, whose career I have followed — with gratitude — from its beginning.

— IAN HAMILTON, c/o Granta Books, London, N.1.

The easy way

SIR — Having seen the way Leeds were treated over the Stuttgart affair, I think UEFA took the easy way out on two counts.

First, Stuttgart broke the rules and should have been disqualified.

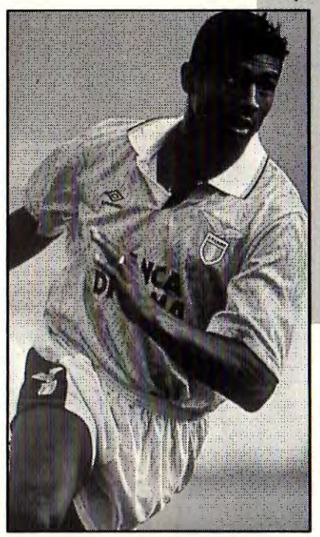
Second, if there was to be a third match then surely it should have been played at Elland Road.

It is now time UEFA got their act together and did away with this rule. Clubs should be allowed to pick and play their best players in all matches, in League or Europe.

Clubs pay players big money. They must be allowed to put out their best players. At present they cannot do this.

When back in 1956 Real Madrid beat Reims to win the first European Cup and went on to win four more in a row, there was never a crib from other clubs to change the rules.

— NOEL COLLINS, Co. Cork, Ireland.



The Dutch diamonds

***SIR* — Eric Batty's tactical ideas for a World XI made interesting reading. However, I don't believe his comparisons with the Dutch went far enough.**

In terms of intelligence and skill, Holland are far superior to any other country in the world. With the right attitude, they could have won the European Championship at a stroll. I would allocate no fewer than six places in a World Team to Dutchmen.

The defensive triangle of Blanc-Koeman-Walker, in front of Schmeichel, is virtually untouchable. As Walker hardly ever ventures forward, the other two would have ample opportunity to display their passing ability.

The job of covering Blanc and Koeman should be given to Aron Winter (left), instead of Mauro Silva. His performances for Ajax in the UEFA Cup were magnificent.

Jonas Thern is one of the few midfielders who successfully combines hard work with consistently accurate and creative passing; I would choose him in front of Srecko Katanec.

In attack, Marco Van Basten is still streets ahead of anyone else, but I feel he would benefit from playing alongside Bergkamp, rather than Bebeto. Brian Laudrup is perfect to fill the "hole" but Massimo Orlando is an odd choice for winger. I select Ruud Gullit, whose defensive qualities are often underrated.

— JAMES EASTHAM (aged 15), Preston, Lancashire, England.

Facile argument

***SIR* — I wish to express my disagreement with the possibility of smaller football nations such as San Marino and the Faroe Islands being excluded from playing in future World Cup qualifying rounds. The Faroes' win over Austria two years ago makes nonsense of this.**

From a financial point of view it would be unfair to deny them the right to play countries such as England, Italy and Germany, which would provide them with some investment for the future.

The facile argument of Norway's recent win in Oslo against San Marino can be put into context by this result from November 1972 in Rotterdam: Holland 9 Norway 0.

— FRANK BRANAGAN, Salford, ENGLAND.

A Bene league

SIR — As a fan of Dutch soccer I find it disheartening to see the constant and unabated exodus of highly-talented players to the wealthier clubs of Spain, Italy, Germany and England. Teams from Holland are lucky to get a couple of good seasons out of young stars, with a European run, before they are snapped up by a richer club and the reconstruction process has to start again.

The problem has been going on for so long that it is treated as an inevitability. (Dennis Bergkamp is the latest example). The situation is similar in Belgium.

One of the main reasons for this vicious circle is the low attendances (thus low receipts) that the average teams get in Holland and Belgium.

So here's my crazy idea: why don't the two leagues have a combined Premier Division (sorry Brian Glanville, but this is the "survival is good" not "greed is good" league!) of 18 teams with normal foreign-player limitations. The top Dutch and Belgian teams qualify for the Champions' Cup, the bottom two clubs from each country get relegated.

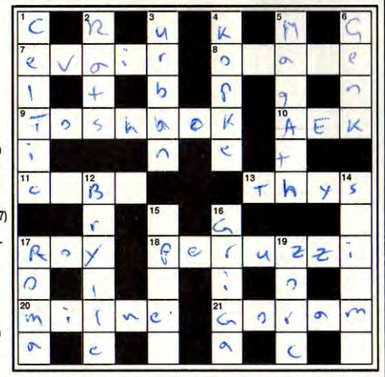
There would be an extra award for winning the "BENE" league but most importantly PSV would play not just Ajax and Feyenoord but also Anderlecht, Club Bruggs, Standard Liege and Mechelen.

A stronger "domestic" league would improve regular play, increase attendances and give the better players a chance to develop at home.

— RUDOLF HULSMAN, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY
Christine Ansell



Clues Across

7. Striker, Paulino, whose goals sustained Atalanta in 1991 (5)
8. 13-cap ex-Scotland forward in Forest's 1980 European Cup final side (5)
9. Former Welsh international coaching Spain's Real Sociedad (7)
10. Athenian club — Greek champions, 1991-92 (1.1.1.)
11. Ireland's Ramblers from St Colman's Park, Cork (4)
13. Van Himst's predecessor as Belgium's national team boss (4)
17. 22 year-old forward in Holland's 1992 European Championship squad (3)
18. 'Keeper with 17 Down, banned in 1991 for drug abuse (7)
20. Former England midfielder at the helm of Turkey's Besiktas (5)
21. Goalkeeper of Glasgow Rangers and Scotland (5)

Clues Down

1. Glasgow club — Britain's first European Cup winners (6)
2. Vasilij, Kiev's former USSR midfielder (4)
3. Ex-Gornik Pole, a star for Spain's Osasuna (5)
4. Nurnberg custodian — Illgner's international understudy (5)
5. Hamburg midfielder in W. Germany's 1986 World Cup final side (6)
6. Belgian League club from the Tyl Gheyselinck stadium (4)
12. Brugge Dane who top-scored in the 87-88 European Cup competition (6)
14. Malta's Wanderers — 22 times national champions (6)
15. Cyprus' reigning club champions (5)
16. Czech striker recruited to Feyenoord from Sparta Prague (5)
17. Italy's 1961 Fairs Cup winners (4)
19. Borussia Dortmund's goalscoring defender, Michael (4)

OCTOBER SOLUTION
Across: 1. Bergkamp, 7. Nayim, 8. Start, 9. Gomes, 10. Baur, 13. Kogl, 14. Fiori, 17. Rioch, 18. Lanna, 19. Snelders
Down: 1. Binz, 2. Roy Hodgson, 3. Kempes, 4. Moss, 5. Detari, 6. Casagrande, 11. Ekeren, 12. Fillol, 15. Thon, 16. Bats.

WORLDWIDE QUIZ

Pressure on space means that from next month the WORLDWIDE QUIZ will be reduced to 10 questions.

The October quiz was won by T. Wright of Darlington with 17 out of 20. This month's questions are:

1. Name the first club to win the Football League title three times in succession.

2. What was the nickname of the former Peru goalkeeper Ramon Quiroga?

3. Who missed the final penalty in the recent shoot-out between Manchester United and Moscow Torpedo?

4. Which player of the 20s and 30s scored 18 goals for England in only nine games?

5. Name the last club, apart from Liverpool, to win the First Division title in successive seasons.

6. Which player was transferred from Morton to Derby for a British record fee of £15,000?

7. Who played for Newcastle for nine years, without scoring a single goa,l then scored three in a two-leg European final?

8. Which actor kept goal for the Allied team in the 1980 film Escape To Victory?

9. Name the British club who lost a Champions' Cup semi-final by an eight-goal margin over two legs.

10. West Ham had to play a 1980 European tie behind closed doors at home, because of crowd trouble at the away leg. Which club did they play?

11. Who was banned from soccer for two years in a match-fixing scandal, then returned to become top scorer in a World Cup tournament?

12. Name the only father-and-son pair to play in postwar FA Cup Finals for the same club.

13. Football League gates last season topped 20 million, for the first time since . . . when?

14. Who played for a winning team in a World Cup Final only a few days after his brother had been killed in a road accident?

15. Name the secretary of the Football League.

16. Which Australian-born Football League goalkeeper and county cricketer died earlier this year?

17. Who scored the first goal to be shown on the first Match of the Day TV transmission in 1964?

18. Which club won the first Wembley final to be decided on a penalty shoot-out?

19. Name the goalkeeper who played in two successive World Cup Finals and was on the losing side both times.

20. Which club used 36 players in last season's First Division programme?

Answers to the October quiz:

1 ..... Max Bossis
2 ..... Glenn Hoddle.
3 ..... Bob Gansler.
4 ..... Brian Deane of Sheffield United.
5 ..... Switzerland.
6 ..... Thomas Berthold.
7 ..... Costa Rica.
8 ..... Chester City.
9 ..... Mixu Paatelainen.
10 ..... Nigeria.
11 ..... Pittodrie, Aberdeen.
12 ..... Peter Palotas.
13 ..... Worthington.
14 ..... Alex Dawson (Manchester United v Bolton and Preston v West Ham).
15 ..... Colo Colo.
16 ..... Vicente Miera.
17 ..... The only four visiting players to score against Liverpool at Anfield.
18 ..... Tunisia.
19 ..... Bob Stokoe and Don Revie.
20 ..... Ken Brown.

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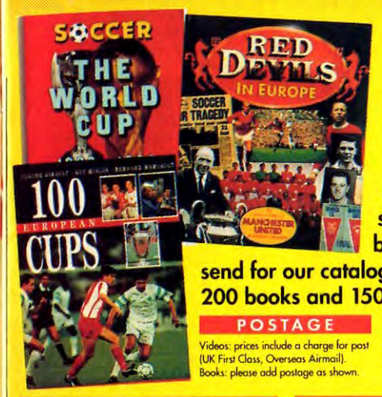

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Spotlight on DENNIS **BERGKAMP**

Mr Modesty Bergk

AS any Dutchman will tell you, people born in Amsterdam are usually noted for their ability to say what they think and earn a variety of descriptions, ranging from arrogant to big-headed and loud-mouthed.

There are always exceptions, of course. Dennis Bergkamp is one. He is an Amsterdammer, but a genuinely modest and quietly spoken young man, despite his superb soccer talents.

So much so that until his first-rate performances during the European Championship in Sweden, he honestly believed that even as a Dutch international he was living in Marco Van Basten's shadow. The role he plays for Holland, as an attacking midfielder, has the modern football term of shadow striker, but Bergkamp felt he was literally over-shadowed.

Van Basten, however, will not accept that Bergkamp's only task is a passing service. He says: "I favour the 4-4-2 system for Holland. If we switched to that I'd like to see Dennis playing alongside me up front."

Swedish international striker Stefan Pettersson, who plays for Ajax, rates Bergkamp even higher than Swedish international Tomas Brolin. The pair were joint top scorers on three goals in Sweden, but Pettersson says. "Dennis is a better individual player. He has a few extras."

Bergkamp, who was 23 a couple of weeks before the European Championship, was Dutch League top scorer last season with 24 goals, and was voted Holland's Player of the Year. And although Holland lost 3-2 to Italy in their home friendly this season, he scored two fine goals.

Bergkamp decided last February to reject any real transfer offers that would turn him into a lire or peseta millionaire because he felt he still had a lot to learn, and staying with Ajax for at least one more season was best for him. The praise in Sweden and the raised eyebrows after his two goals against Italy made no difference.

"I've no regrets not even for one second have I had any doubts about my decision.

"Making up my mind wasn't so easy. At times like those you turn the matter over and try to balance the scales. Then, when I decided, I felt happy, and nothing has since happened to change that."

Bergkamp has only had any feeling similar to that between himself and Ajax for one other club — Tottenham Hotspur!

He joined Ajax at 12 to become a part of the soccer school that over the years has produced Johan Cruyff and many other top players, but as a boy he was crazy about English football, and particularly Spurs.

He explains: "It was because of their style of play, plus Glenn Hoddle. All our family were crazy about English football.

"My father and my brother were Manchester United fans and my parents called me 'Denis Law'. I even had a big photo of Law in my bedroom.

"When we were on holiday in England we always went to Old Trafford. But for my benefit we visited White Hart Lane and my parents bought a complete Tottenham strip, plus a cup with 'Member of Tottenham Hotspur' on it. That's one of my happiest memories."

Happiness with Ajax from the first day Bergkamp trained in a red and white shirt helped him to develop a sense of discipline and duty.

He even took up athletics to improve his running, and dropped out of interesting school trips rather than miss a training session.

With two former team-mates now in Italy — Aron Winter with Lazio and John Van't Schip with Genoa — Bergkamp is rightly regarded as one of the key players with Ajax. But that

Scoring the winner for Holland against Scotland at the 1992 European Championship (below left).

Pettersson, Bergkamp's forward partner at Ajax, in action against Torino's Enzo Scifo in last season's UEFA Cup Final (below centre).

Bergkamp's Idol, Glenn Hoddle, in his playing days with Tottenham Hotspur (below right).

has done nothing to change him.

Indeed, his attitude to football has hardly altered since he was 18 and signed a full professional contract.

The fact that Johan Cruff saw the real potential in him certainly did no harm. Cruyff, then Ajax manager, pulled Bergkamp out of the youth squad and put on a special training session with the first team to demonstrate important points for him.

When somebody like Cruyff lets a youngster know he rates him highly, that can only be good for self-confidence.

And that has helped Bergkamp grow up remarkably quickly as an international with true class, including 11 goals in 18 games for Holland.

"It's possible a lot will fall on my shoulders," he says. "I'm anxious to know how I will cope with all the pressure.

"I don't think any change of tactics, or my own role, would make much difference if I moved to an Italian or a Spanish club next season.

"I've had to change a bit with Ajax this season and I found I could adapt very quickly. I've had to take over bits and pieces from the job Van't Schip and Winter did for the team.

"I also find that more players listen to me now, but I know that I've got to go on working hard in training and during games. I've learned so much from Stefan Pettersson. He has inspired me and many other Ajax players.

"Stefan is one of the players from whom much is expected. When things are not going well for him he simply works harder and harder.

"Of course players like Van Basten, Koeman, Gullit and Wouters could be said to form the heart of the Dutch national team. Some people think I could be taking on extra work, but I don't think I'm ready for that. With Ajax yes, but for Holland that is something for the future."

That future could involve interesting changes in club football for Bergkamp.

He says: "I have experienced many problems with people who compare Dutch football with a Mickey Mouse competition. That's as if to say we must not take teams like Ajax, PSV and Feyenoord seriously.

"But our Premier Division is of a very high standard. This feeling helped me to stay with Ajax. Okay, a couple of top players have left, but we're still one of the best teams in Europe."

The big-money clubs such as Barcelona, Real Madrid, Juventus, Inter and Milan will be playing the transfer game by the time the winter break arrives, but Bergkamp claims: "The financial aspect will play no part.

"For me, the atmosphere in the club, the way they play, and a good private life are more important. It will be crucial to know what the manager wants from me and how he plans to use me."

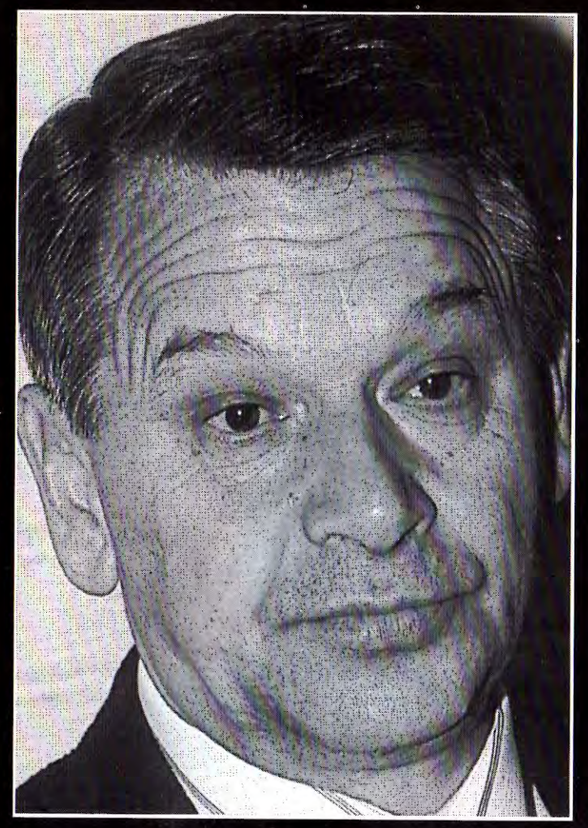
Johan Cruyff, now at Barcelona, is in regular telephone contact with Bergkamp. Cruyff, the manager who gave him heart and pride as a 17-year-old would no doubt like to have him in his team again.

But not even a crystal ball could reveal the future for one of Holland's outstanding players.

ERIC **NICHOLLS**

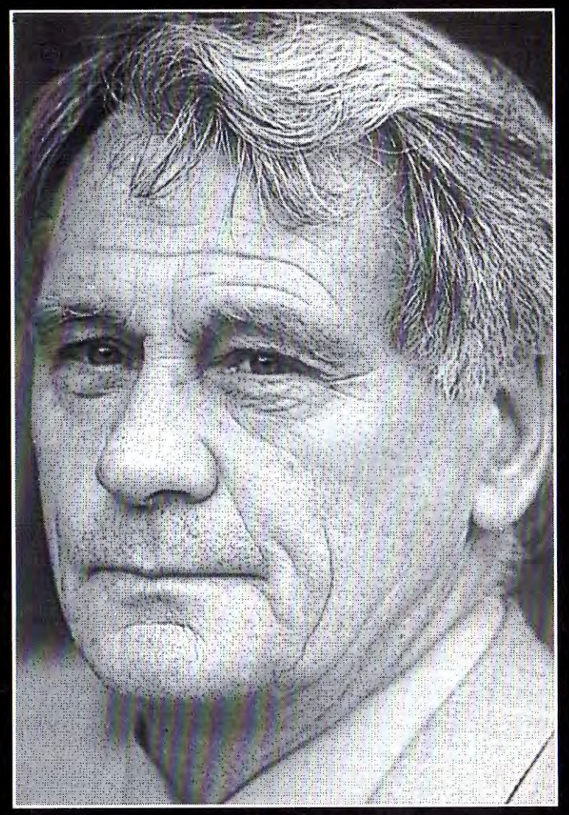
Holland rely on a man who idolised Hoddle

kamp



Lisbon's Leaders

Ivic and Robson on the past the pace and the pressure



PORTUGAL'S two greatest clubs, **Benfica and Sporting**, are both based in Lisbon. Both began the season under new management, with **Tomislav Ivic** and **Bobby Robson** now in charge. Both have to adapt to new surroundings, face up to the challenge of Porto, last season's runaway champions, Boavista and others, and cope with the pressures of life in a soccer-mad city. On the eve of the first meeting between the rival clubs this season, which Sporting won 2–0, ***WORLD SOCCER*** brought Ivic and Robson together.

ALBERTO DA SILVA reports on the conversation.

FACE FACE

Sporting's elimination by Grasshopper in the UEFA Cup aroused a lot of resentment, especially as the first leg had been won — in Switzerland. Benfica had a easy round in the same competition, beating Belvedur Izola of Slovenia 8-0, but some bad domestic results had caused problems for Ivic. But before asking the managers their views on football, I asked about their background — and the answers were enlightening.

ROBSON: I'm a working-class man. My father was a miner in the Durham coalfield. I was one of five children and learned about life in the back streets. University? I left school at 15, and the only college I went to was the college of adversity. At 17 I was a mining electrician, and went to London as a professional footballer, with Fulham. Then I had to learn how to survive in a big city.

IVIC: I was born in Croatia and my father fought in the Spanish Civil War, with the International Brigade, and then with Tito, for Yugoslavia. He was killed by the Germans. My school was the street, while my mother worked as a waitress, for 16 hours a day. I could have become a gangster, something like that. Instead, I became a footballer. And that made me a man.

Now you are in influential, high-paid jobs. How do you cope on a day-to-day basis?

ROBSON: I'm trying hard to learn Portuguese. I know many words, but I need an interpreter to communicate properly with players. The interpreter must not only understand what I say, but what I mean. For instances, if I say "Fight for the ball" the interpreter must put that correctly. Of course there's an international language in football, and some of my players speak English.

IVIC: I do not speak Portuguese that well, but I know enough for my players to understand me. I speak six languages, and from all of them I can make a salad. That salad goes down pretty well.

Have you had any problems with your players apart from language difficulties?

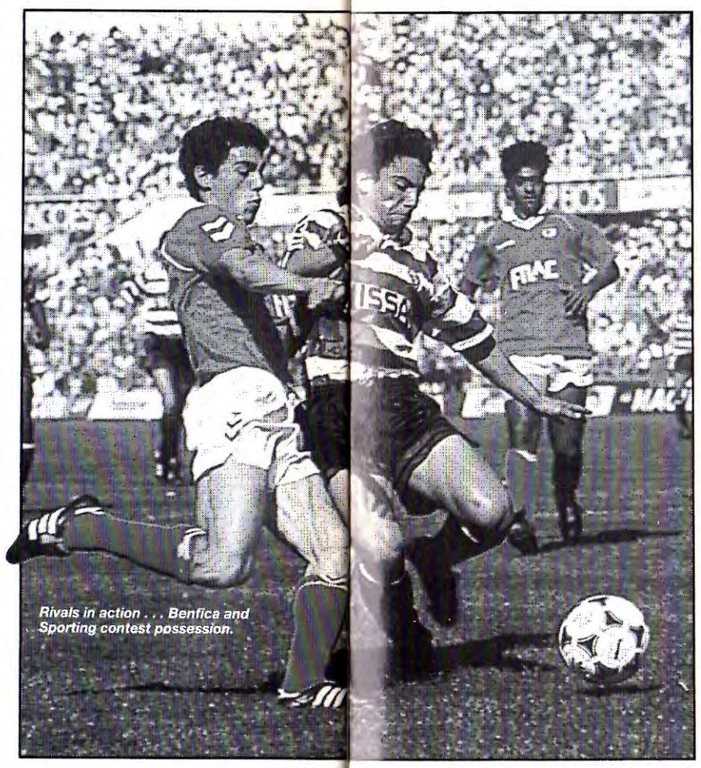
IVIC: None whatsoever. I told them "Here, there are no Russians, no Swedes, no Poles, no Chinese. We are all Portuguese, all Benfica." They can play for 24 hours a day if they like. Conditions are good. And there is a deep Brazilian influence.

ROBSON: No problems with my players. They always accept my directives.

Football clubs are becoming more and more complex. The old-style manager is no longer appropriate, and when you are working in a foreign country you need others to help you organise.

IVIC: When I arrived, people were soon talking about me wanting to change everything at the club. That was not my intention, but then I found there were five other coaches besides myself: Toni, Eusebio, Sheu, Bento and Castelo. So we had to separate the jobs according to specialities. For instance, Bento now trains the goalkeepers, and only the goalkeepers. Toni is assistant manager.

ROBSON: I feel it is very important to have a Portuguese assistant who knows Portuguese football, as Manuel Fernandez does. His contract is linked to mine: if I go, he goes. We're a pair.



Rivals in action . . . Benfica and Sporting contest possession.

What about changes in tactics and the change in rules introduced this season?

IVIC: The new back-pass rule is helping to avoid the monotony that made so many matches boring. The game has gained even more speed and is more spontaneous. Players have to improvise. The public have no time to think of anything except what is happening on the pitch.

ROBSON: If you see old games on film, there were some fantastic matches. Today everything is so quick you can hardly capture it on film. There are other marked differences between the old game and the new. If you were to lose a game 30 years ago it would not matter so much, would it? You accepted defeat as normal. But with today's pressures . . .

Yes, the pressures created by football today are killers. Managers try to protect themselves by creating tactics that may avoid defeat but in fact help to kill the game. Wasn't it better in the days when a defeat did not matter so much?

ROBSON: I love marvellous attacking football, but if you lose then the pressure grows. I don't like to see 22 players fighting for the ball, or teams trying to catch opponents offside. But you must defend yourself.

So are there no great players these days, no artists?

IVIC: There are some fantastic players around today. But football is not the same as it used to be. Today, everybody has to play for 90 minutes, not just two or three minutes. The players of 20 years ago could not do what is being done now.

ROBSON: Nowadays the pace is amazing. Players do not have time. The tackles are always there. There are great players still, men with enormous control and marvellous technique. But they don't have time to play.

What do you think about England's chances for the 1992 World Cup?

ROBSON: I'm confident that England can overcome the disappointment of the European Championship in Sweden. Their performances there weren't very good, but they'll improve and will qualify for the World Cup. Graham Taylor now has the chance to look at new players, and he has to re-establish confidence. But he cannot go on making so many changes without building up a strong basis, a nucleus of capable, reliable players.

Do you both like Portugal, and do you like working here even though you know that you could be shown the door if you're not a success? And what do you miss about your homeland?

IVIC: This is a friendly country, and we Yugoslavs are quite like the Portuguese. Of course I miss a great number of things. Yugoslavia was a motherland of many other nations, built at a very heavy price. Now it is no more. But I have a new motherland — Benfica.

ROBSON: Working in a country with a different mentality and different culture is very exciting. In England we go to bed early, but here the climate makes us change our ways and our discipline. But I miss my mother — you only have one mother, after all — and I miss my house and garden in Ipswich. And I miss my dog.

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IRISH FOOTBALL YEARBOOK 1992/93. Available end October. Book includes statistics on 1991/92 Irish League Season. Players Directory and N. Ireland Clubs Complete Line Ups in Europe since 1957. Price £10.95. Postage UK £1.00. Europe/Eire £2.50. Cheques to Marshall Gillespie, 92 Belvoir Close, Fareham, Hants PO16 0PR.

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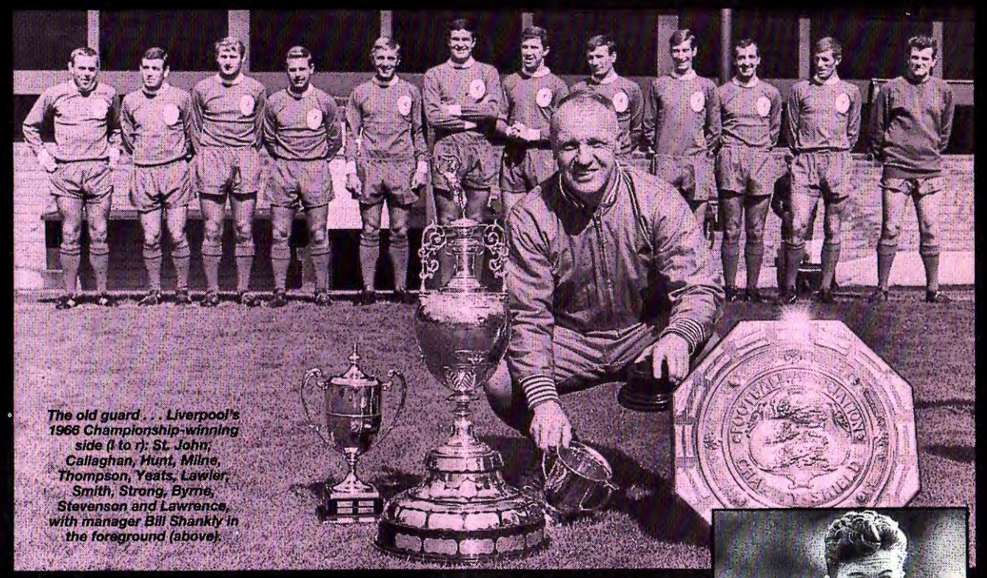


The old guard . . . Liverpool's 1966 Championship-winning side (l to r): St. John, Callaghan, Hunt, Milne, Thompson, Yeats, Lawler, Smith, Strong, Byrne, Stevenson and Lawrence, with manager Bill Shankly in the foreground (above).

LIVERPOOL are used to crises. "WE have one every season," they scoff at critics like me who dare to suggest that the longest-running serial of success in English football is about to close.

But the crisis of 1992 is different; more serious than any on the playing front since the dark winter of 1970 when the first great team built by Bill Shankly broke up. They rose from the Second Division in 1962, won the League Championship in 1964, the FA Cup, for the first time in the club's history in 1965, and the title again in 1966. They set out in 1964 on a run of European qualification that did not end until the Heysel tragedy of 1985.

They stayed together too long. Then partly by accident, with injuries, and partly by design, with judicious signings, they were replaced . . . Lawrence by Clemence, Yeats by Lloyd, Stevenson by Hughes, Hunt by Toshack, St John by Keegan, Thompson by Heighway.

In 1973 seven years of famine ended. The golden age began.

Now, another Scottish manager, Graeme Souness, is at a similar point to Shankly 22 years ago. Does he have the inspirational force, the financial resources, the player power need to lead another recovery?

Little more than a fortnight before writing, in mid-October, I would have said No. A third consecutive Premier League defeat, at home to Wimbledon on September 26, led me to conclude the situation was so serious it was almost a lost cause. It was not just the bad results on the pitch. It was the bad atmosphere off it.

I should know only too well, after 30 years of reporting on Merseyside, not to read too much into a series of results, even a season of good results. I wrote in 1970 that I had seen the team to dominate the next decade. I identified the wrong team. Everton, the champions then, did not win another thing for 14 years.

Less than a mile across Stanley Park from Goodison, Shankly, with the expert aid of Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan, was rebuilding Liverpool to dominate the 1970s and 1980s.

Souness does not have as much going for him as Shankly. Possibly most crucially, despite the years when nothing was won, Shankly had the immense will of the people helping to generate tremendous energy.

Inevitably, some of that has been drained by the years of success — success in which Souness played a great part as captain of the side who achieved a hat-trick of League titles 1982-84 and the unique treble of League, Champions' Cup and League Cup in 1984.

Understandably, Souness champions the fans as the best in the land. But Anfield does not hold so many now and attendances have shrunk. The days of regular 50,000-plus crowds have long gone.

Still, there are similarities between 1970 and now. The stadium was being rebuilt then. It is now. There was a crop of injuries then. There is now.

Young prospects emerged then. They are now. Whether Rob Jones, Steve McManaman, Jamie Redknapp and Don Hutchison go on to achieve greatness remains to be seen. But they are the main reasons for my second thoughts.

The young prospects . . . Steve McManaman (top), Rob Jones (middle) and Jamie Redknapp (bottom) represent Liverpool's future. Whether they go on to fulfil their potential remains to be seen.

In three games after that Wimbledon defeat, McManaman, 20, Redknapp, 19, and Hutchison, 21, all performed leading roles in a mini recovery which brought three wins — in Cyprus in the Cup-winners' Cup against Apollon Limassol, in the Premier League at home to Sheffield Wednesday, and in the Coca-Cola League Cup at Third Division Chesterfield — and a draw away to Manchester United.

There were signs of growing confidence in those victories and Liverpool played their old passing game again.

Jones, another 20-year-old, was missing as he recovered from an operation to cure a long-standing problem with shin splints. But the full-back who, along with winger or striker McManaman, was one of the country's brightest youngsters last season, helping Liverpool to win the FA Cup and making an impressive international debut for England, was set to return.

They represent the future of Liverpool, as well as helping in the present recovery operation — but in many ways they are a throwback to a past when Shankly picked up bargains like Clemence and Keegan from Scunthorpe and discovered Heighway, then studying at university, with Skelmersdale.

In Kenny Dalglish's last few months in charge, even while cracking under the pressure of trying to keep Liverpool on top, he bought midfield pair Hutchison, from Hartlepool for £175,000, and Redknapp, from Bournemouth for a down payment of £300,000.

Local boy McManaman was spotted virtually on Everton's doorstep. Souness saw Jones at Crewe, put down £300,000 and immediately put him in his side at Manchester United. Even when all the payments are completed and Crewe have received a total of £650,000 it is one of the best deals for years.

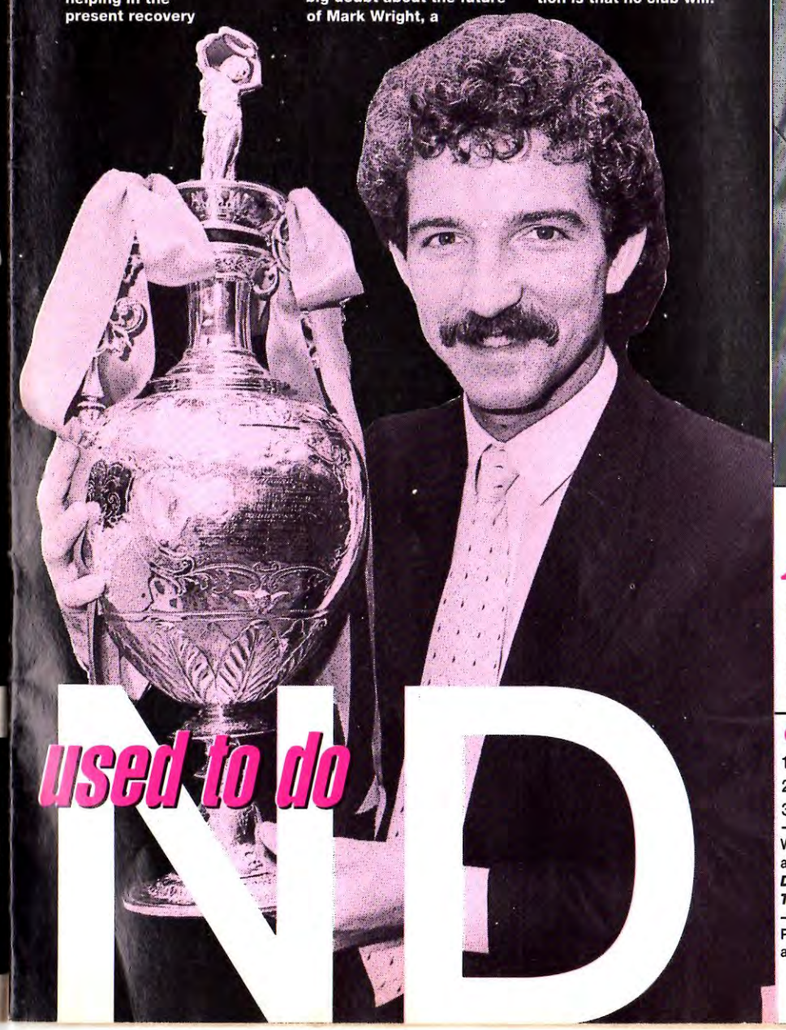
Other signings who cost Liverpool millions have not been so successful. Dean Saunders was bought from Derby for £2.9m. and sold 14 months later to Aston Villa for £2.3m. There is a big doubt about the future of Mark Wright, a £2.2m. buy when he moved from Derby a few days before Saunders.

The investment of £1.5m. in Michael Thomas paid off with his FA Cup quarter-final winner against Villa and his Wembley special against Sunderland. But he has been among the injured much of this season.

Of the established men in the ageing squad Souness inherited in April last year, John Barnes has not kicked many balls for him. He hopes to return after his achilles operation before the end of November. But he is unlikely to be around after the end of next season as he continues to harbour an ambition to play in Italy or Spain.

Other experienced players could find themselves surplus to requirements as Liverpool look more to Jones, McManaman, Redknapp, Hutchison and other youngsters.

They will help Liverpool to win a trophy now and again. But never again will Liverpool dominate as they did from 1973 to 1990 — 11 League championships, four Champions' Cups, three FA Cups, four League cups, two UEFA Cups. Their consolation is that no club will.



THE END

No club will dominate the way Liverpool used to do

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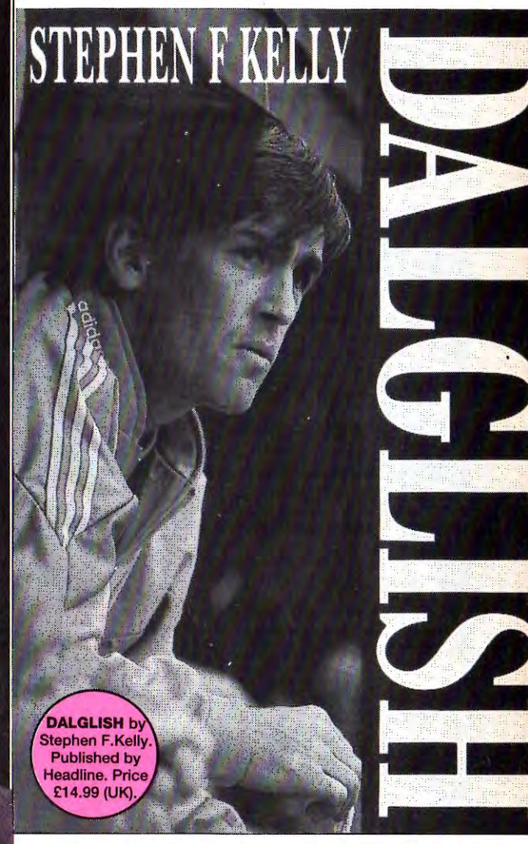

DALGLISH by Stephen F.Kelly. Published by Headline. Price £14.99 (UK).

A fascinating account of the career of one of the game's greatest ever players. Stephen Kelly takes us behind-the-scenes at Liverpool during Kenny's glittering reign as player and manager. He examines the reasons for Kenny's sensational decision to quit Anfield . . . and his shock appointment as manager of Blackburn Rovers.

QUESTIONS.

1. True or False — Kenny was the first Scot to win 100 full caps?
2. In which year was he appointed player-manager of Liverpool?
3. How many times did Kenny win the PFA Player of the Year Award?

Write the answers to the three questions about Kenny Dalglish on the back of a postcard. Add your name, address and postcode. Then send to: ***Dalglish Book Competition, WORLD SOCCER, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.***

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Stage three Klinsmann

France provides new challenge for top striker

JURGEN KLINSMANN is enjoying a third stage in his career.

After chasing the legs off defenders in West Germany with Stuttgart, then in Italy with Internazionale, he is now adjusting to yet another football culture, in France with Monaco.

His pedigree is outstanding. At 20 he was a First Division footballer; at 23 he was making his international debut against Brazil; at 24 he was the championship's top scorer, bronze medallist at the Seoul Olympics and Footballer of the Year; at 25 he was signing a millionaire's contract with Internazionale; a few days short of his 26th birthday he was a World Cup winner.

Not long afterwards Klinsmann made the astonishing revelation that he was ready to retire. Not because he had earned enough money to live in luxury for the rest of his life. Not because of injury. But because the pressures of high-profile success were becoming a bore.

Now, a further 18 months down the line, Klinsmann has not retired. But he has taken a career sidestep. Playing for Monaco is a singular experience. Big money, but small crowds. Certainly not on a par with Italy. Nor even Spain, where Klinsmann might have landed. Nor even Germany. How Klinsmann responds will be evident from the position shuffling at the top of the French championship and from the knock-out progression of the Cup-winners' Cup.

Of one factor, French fans may be assured: Klinsmann is not looking for an easy ride. He is one of football's intellectuals, a thinking man unencumbered by the blinkers which destroy the perspective of many a successful sportsman. This is a man who knows his own value.

For example, Klinsmann negotiates his own contracts and transfers. Not for the blond German the "services" of an agent or personal manager.

Klinsmann retains a lawyer to sort out the paperwork. But he sorts out the terms. And he knows exactly what goes on. At Inter, he negotiated a contract clause which guaranteed him a first-team place. He never feared a rival.

"I could have stayed at Inter if I'd wanted and been in the team, no matter how many other foreigners they bought," he says.

Klinsmann also is a man of his word. When Inter agreed terms for a sale to Real Madrid at the end of last season he turned down inquiries from several other clubs, including Marseille. "Franz Beckenbauer told me Marseille were interested. But I

Red and white . . . Klinsmann in Monaco colours.

PROFILE

Born: Goppingen, Germany, on July 30, 1964.

Clubs: Stuttgart Kickers, VfB Stuttgart, Internazionale (Italy), Monaco (France).

42 caps for Germany, 10 goals.

Honours: 1990 World Cup, 1991 UEFA Cup, 1989 West German Footballer of the Year. 1992 European championship runner-up, 1988 Olympic Games bronze medal, 1989 UEFA Cup runner-up.

CAGLIARI import Luis Oliveira certainly did not make a good first impression on his new coach, Carlo Mazzone.

On arriving for training fashion-conscious Oliveira was sporting an ear-ring, but Mazzone ordered him to remove it.

"This is a serious club," he stormed. "It is not a circus." Cagliari's president, Massimo Cellino, assumed the role of mediator and sought to play down the incident while praising Oliveira. "It was just a misunderstanding," said Cellino. "Luis was not aware of our dress code.

"Italian clubs always expect their players to be of a smart appearance. For example, Juventus insist their men are well turned out and last year I recall Parma telling Taffarel and Osio to take out their ear-rings or face a heavy fine.

"We paid Anderlecht £2.5 million for Oliveira, and compared to some of the crazy transfer fees paid by Serie A teams during the summer, he's a bargain. He's a very talented forward, just the sort of creative player we need.

"After losing Daniel Fonseca to Napoli during the close season, we had to find a high-quality attacking replacement. Luis fits the bill perfectly."

Oliveira now links with Enzo Francescoli and Giorgio Bresciani in Cagliari's front line, and Cellino expects big things from that arrangement.

He says: "Cagliari's team represents the whole of Sardinia and the people of this island deserve more than a side fighting against relegation every year. I admit it is not realistic to believe we can repeat our championship triumph of 1970. But we can aim for a place in the top ten."

Despite the early taste of Italian club discipline, Oliveira remains

Red and blue . . . Oliveira in Cagliari's strip.

could not honestly negotiate with both Marseille and Madrid so that's why Marseille went after Rudi Voller."

He has no doubts about why the Madrid deal turned sour. He says: "Looking back, I think Madrid were playing for time. Originally they offered only half what I was getting at Inter. I don't think the president, Ramon Mendoza, wanted me. It was the coach, Leo Beenhakker. Then Madrid lost both the Spanish championship and the Cup final and Beenhakker was out. Everything collapsed. Then I knew I had been right!"

Paris Saint-Germain and Monaco stepped into the breach. Ultimately Paris signed Monaco's former African Footballer of the Year, George Weah, and left Monaco a free hand to buy Klinsmann as his replacement. Klinsmann says: "I liked Monaco's approach. The president, Jean-Louis Campora, called Inter himself to arrange everything. That's class."

Klinsmann is happy to play on. For the time being.

He says: "The first couple of seasons went well at Inter. The first season (1989-90) I scored 13 goals. The second season I scored 14 and we won the UEFA Cup. I had proved to myself that I could make it in Calcio. But the Italians can't see anything beyond football. I had always wanted to go back to Germany to pick up my university studies. The Italians couldn't understand it. But I like change and variety and mixing with different people and cultures. That's why it was time for a change."

Klinsmann has jumped a vast chasm in terms of football environment. In Italy home crowds frequently topped 50,000. In Monaco they rarely rise above 5,000. But then, as he points out, Inter are absent from European competition this season whereas Monaco are again in the Cup-winners' Cup, in which they finished last term as runners-up.

Also he expects to enjoy his football more in France. Klinsmann says: "In Italy football is an enormous business. Success is judged in financial terms. The greater the investment, the greater the fear of failure. Now, in France and Germany the money is not the same. But they score more goals. That's more enjoyable for me."

But then, Klinsmann can afford to say that. After all, the man who negotiated a contract worth £20,000 a week at Inter will tell you that he has never yet had to take a pay cut since starting with a small, local club in Swabia, called TB Gingen. Later, of course, he was picked up by the "second" Stuttgart team, Kickers, and in due course by VfB Stuttgart. He joined them virtually unnoticed in the summer of 1984, when all Stuttgart was celebrating the club's recently-secured championship.

Black and white . . . Klinsmann scores for Germany against Holland in the 1990 World Cup.

Yet Klinsmann's dramatic mixture of power and pace soon made itself felt and in 1987 he was promoted to the national team for a 1-1 draw away to Brazil.

That first contact with the international arena acted like a spur to Klinsmann. By the end of that 1987-88 season he was the Bundesliga's leading scorer with 19 goals. A few weeks later he was West Germany's best player at the European Championship finals, though the hosts ultimately fell to Holland in the semi-finals. Yet a few weeks more and he was being voted Footballer of the Year.

Inevitably Klinsmann began attracting club interest from abroad. Atletico Madrid's controversial president, Jesus Gil, led the army of suitors. He even signed a first-option agreement with Stuttgart. Klinsmann was not amused. Gil was not a man after his style and, later that year, having led Stuttgart to the UEFA Cup Final, he joined Internazionale instead.

Inter had just won the Italian championship, their stars were fellow Germans Lothar Matthaus and Andy Brehme, and Klinsmann quickly settled in — proving popular with team-mates and fans. He scored seven times in the first 11 games of the season, including a rare hat-trick in a 3-0 win away to Verona.

Come the end of the season and Klinsmann was poised for the greatest game of his career. The occasion was the 1990 World Cup second round tie against Holland. As coincidence would have it, the venue was Milan's Stadio Meazza at San Siro — home territory for Klinsmann, Matthaus and Brehme but also for Holland's Milan stars Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard.

Midway through the first half Rijkaard and German striker Rudi Voller were sent off. That left Klinsmann fighting a lone battle up front for the Germans. But he fought it to such remarkable effect that he collected a marvellous goal and every man-of-the-match accolade in sight.

When Klinsmann had virtually run himself to a standstill he was substituted just before the end and received a standing ovation. His goal had been attained: Germany were on their way towards ultimate World Cup victory.

And after winning the World Cup where can a player go but down? That's the real reason Klinsmann grew bored: the absence of challenge.

Whether Monaco can fill that gap in his career must remain open to question.

KEIR **RADNEDGE**

Ring for success

Oliveira

Cagliari capture hopes to do his bit

enthusiastic about the move. "Every footballer in the world would like to play in the Serie A," he says. "I'm no exception. It's simply the most demanding, entertaining and competitive championship.

"Sardinia is a beautiful place to live. My wife, son and myself all love it.

"When I heard that Cagliari wanted me I was so excited. Then I remembered that Anderlecht had given me the chance to become a professional and I began to feel guilty. I thought of my seven happy seasons in Belgium and the five-year contract which tied me to Anderlecht until 1996.

"Finally, I realised that this was not the time to be sentimental. The Cagliari offer was too good to refuse."

Oliveira's decision to leave was not the only moral dilemma he had to face. He has also had the onerous task of choosing between keeping his Brazilian passport or taking Belgian citizenship.

For two years he received a barrage of conflicting advice on the matter. While Anderlecht and Belgian Federation officials tempted him with the prospect of a place in Belgium's national team, Oliveira's father attempted to persuade his son to retain his Brazilian status.

Several times Oliveira hesitated over continuing with the naturalisation process, but eventually he opted for Belgium. In February he made his full international debut in Belgium's 2-1 friendly defeat in Tunisia, and scored his side's consolation goal.

"I don't think I have betrayed Brazil," he says. "I was born and raised in Brazil and will always think of myself as a Brazilian.

"But I cannot deny that Belgium has played a very important part in my football career and my personal life. My wife comes from Brussels, and I'm aware that I owe an enormous debt to Belgian soccer."

Not that Oliveira was the first foreigner to apply to the Belgian Naturalisation Board. Back in 1982 Anderlecht's Spanish-born playmaker, Juan Lozano, appeared set to be cleared to represent Belgium at the World Cup in Spain . . . but he was to be disappointed.

The bureaucratic opinion was that Lozano was not serious about becoming a citizen of Belgium and the authorities refused to reach a final judgement of the case.

After two years of administrative stalling, frustrated Lozano withdrew his request.

Oliveira, born Airton Luis Oleira Barroso, hails from Tupan in north-eastern Brazil. He was born there on March 24, 1969, and Isoon developed a love for football.

He shared a small apartment with his parents, six brothers and six cousins, and recalls that money and food were often scarce.

His dream was to sign a professional contract to provide an escape route from a life of poverty.

"As a teenager, I had been optimistic of being spotted by a big club in Brazil," he says. "I was in good form for my local side, Sociedade Esportiva Tupan, and played for the Maranhao region youth team as well. I even scored a goal at the Maracana in an inter-state game in 1984.

"Yet nothing happened. In Rio and Sao Paulo nobody knew I existed."

Oliviera began to lose hope of a career in football, but his disillusion was short-lived. In the summer of 1985 an Argentine agent, Juan Rubulota, recognised Oliveira's talent and through contacts in Belgium he arranged a trial at Anderlecht.

A snowstorm welcomed Oliveira on his arrival in Brussels in November 1985, but he was determined that his ambition would not be thwarted by unfamiliar conditions.

He turned on the style during a practice match at Anderlecht's training centre and was immediately taken on. At 16 Oliveira was about to embark on a European adventure.

Anderlecht have a fine record of nurturing young foreign players and ultimately turning them into highly-competent professionals. And in keeping with that tradition, the club made every effort to exploit Oliveira's considerable potential.

He made his First Division debut in March 1988, but did not establish himself as a senior regular until the latter part of the 1989-90 season.

The following year, coach Aad de Mos took full advantage of Oliveira's marksmanship and attacking versatility as Anderlecht claimed their 21st League title: he contributed 18 goals, and proved equally effective as a powerful central striker or as a winger of speed, poise and guile.

Now Anderlecht fans are no longer witnesses of Oliveira's characteristic shuffle, which leaves so many opposing defenders helpless. He is now performing to a Sardinian gallery at Cagliari's Stadio Sant'Elia, and relishing the challenge.

"I hope to do my bit," he says.

NICK **BIDWELL**

USA by PAUL GARDNER

Colorado outfox Tampa to win the trophies

WINNING the championship of the five-team American Professional Soccer League is not exactly the most arduous task in the world.

It involves playing a mere 16 league games, a home-and-away semi-final series, and then the final.

Just 19 games — and the team who came out on top were Colorado Foxes. But Foxes underlined their superiority by also winning the Professional Cup, a competition that featured the five APSL teams, plus Vancouver 86ers and FC Supra de Montreal from the Canadian Soccer League, and Chicago Sting of the NPSL.

Nor could there be much doubt about the second best team in the APSL — for Foxes met, and beat, Tampa Bay Rowdies in both finals: 4-1 in the Professional Cup, and — in the league final — a much tighter 1-0.

Both games were played in the Foxes' home lair — Englewood Stadium, in Denver. Foxes had something to prove to Tampa Bay, having lost three of their four regular season meetings.

In the Pro Cup final, Jeff Hooker, Brian Haynes, Taifour Diane and Ted Eck scored for Foxes, while Jean Harbor replied.

Tampa Bay's chances of a win were fatally damaged when defender Jimmy McGeough was sent off 34 minutes. A week later, in the championship decider, it was again the 34th minute that undid Rowdies.

That was when Foxes' midfielder Chad Ashton fired a deflected free-kick into the net for the only goal.

Harbor was the APSL's leading scorer during the season with 13 goals and 4 assists, for a total of 30 points. This was Nigerian-born Harbor's second consecutive APSL scoring title.

He has recently acquired American citizenship, and has been called up to the national team squad.

Colorado's Taifour Diane, the 19-year-old forward from Guinea, captured the MVP and Rookie of the Year awards, and Mark Dodd of Colorado was the leading goalkeeper.

Coach of the Year title went to Tampa Bay's Ricky Hill, imported from England by general manager Rodney Marsh. The 33-year-old Hill (below) was supposed to spend his time playing as midfielder, but early in the season co-coaches Ken Fogarty and Steve Wegerle were shown the door, and Hill took over as player-coach.

His coaching success seems not to have impressed Tampa; they have already announced that Hill — who played for Luton and gained three caps for England — will come back next year, but as a player only.

The APSL's All-Star team, selected by the votes of the five coaches, was:

GOALKEEPER:
Bill Andracki (Tampa Bay).

DEFENDERS:
Steve Pittman (Fort Lauderdale), **Robin Fraser (Colorado), Steve Trittschuh** (Tampa Bay), **Danny Pena** (San Francisco Bay).

MIDFIELDERS:
Ricky Hill (Tampa Bay), **Jorge Salazar** (San Francisco Bay), **Dominic Kinnear** (San Francisco Bay), **Kevin Sloan** (Tampa Bay).

FORWARDS:
Taifour Diane (Colorado), **Jean Harbor** (Tampa Bay).

As for the APSL's future, things look as uncertain as ever. During the past season, Fort Lauderdale Strikers ran into serious trouble when their new owner, Bryan Lockwood, suddenly threw in the towel.

The league itself ran the club, at a cost of some $200,000, for the rest of the season.

Then Amancio Suarez, owner of the highly unsuccessful Miami Freedom, took over Strikers. Which left Freedom without an owner. The club seem certain to fold, to be replaced by a new club in southern California, Los Angeles Salsa, who have engaged former US national team captain Rick Davis as general manager.

Vancouver 86ers, from the ailing Canadian Soccer League also plan to join the league for the 1993 season, and there is a possibility that another CSL club, FC Supra de Montreal, may be admitted to the APSL. Which would take the total up to seven clubs for 1993. Maybe.

Bill Sage, Commissioner of the APSL says: "We're a building block for the future. We need help — and that help has to come from the World Cup people. What we need is a plan — we're asking for millions and businessmen won't put in that sort of money without seeing a plan.

"I expect that plan to be drawn up within the next six months. I expect it to come from the Federation, with help from the World Cup people. If it doesn't come, we could draw up our own plan."

But the Federation, under Alan Rothenberg's leadership, have other ideas. These include basing a future pro league on the nine World Cup venues, and ignoring the APSL altogether.

Says Sage: "It's very unlikely that pro teams will spring from the venue groups — those are business development people, very different from those who want to make long-term sports commitments."

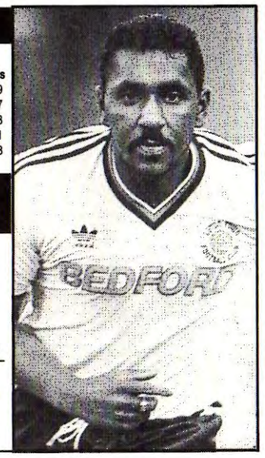
APSL

Final standings

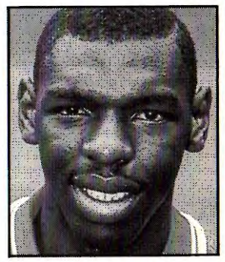
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Colorado Foxes	16	11	5	27	18	89
Tampa Bay Rowdies	16	10	6	35	26	87
S.F. Bay Blackhawks	16	8	8	29	27	73
Fort Lauderdale Strikers	16	7	9	26	24	61
Miami Freedom	16	4	12	17	39	43

APSL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

September 26, 1992
Englewood Stadium, Denver
Colorado Foxes 1 (Ashton 34)
Tampa Bay Rowdies 0
Att: 5,000.
Colorado: Dodd — Fraser, Soehn, Balboa, Roentved — Ashton, Haynes, Santel, Eck — Diane, Hooker (Medved 69).
Tampa Bay: Andracki — Rowe, Backman, Trittschuh (Hooper 52), Black — Van Der Beck, Charles, Hill, Reasoner — Harbor, Sloan.



Goater going for Cup goals



SHAUN GOATER, virtually unknown in England, is the Gary Lineker of Bermuda, according to his club manager, Phil Henson of Rotherham.

Goater (right) scored 12 goals in his first 13 games for Bermuda, helping the island (population 60,000) to knock Haiti and Antigua out of the CONCACAF zone for the 1994 World Cup.

Goater also has been doing well for Rotherham, scoring the goal that gave them an unexpected victory over Everton in the first leg of their Coca-Cola Cup tie.

Rotherham lost the second leg 3-0 to go out of the competition, but Goater would have missed the third round anyway. Bermuda wanted him for their group matches in Jamaica, Canada and El Salvador.

"It was a difficult situation, but the World Cup is every player's ambition," said Goater. "I had to go."

St. Vincent, an island even smaller than Bermuda, caused a surprise by eliminating St. Lucia and Surinam. They now go into another group of four, with Mexico, Costa Rica and Honduras.

The top two teams in both groups go into a final round, with the winner automatically passing through to US '94, and the second-placed country playing home and away against the Oceania winners and South American Group "A" runners-up to decide the other qualifying nation.

PETER **FERGUSON**

Seven sent off in one match

VANCOUVER 86ers and the surprising Winnipeg Fury will clash in this year's Canadian Soccer League Cup Final.

The 86ers, who finished on top of the six-team league during the regular season, eliminated fourth-placed Montreal Supra, while the Fury, who finished third, knocked out second-placed North York Rockets.

Unfortunately, the final standings were affected by a nasty game between Toronto Blizzard and London Lazers: seven players were sent off and both teams had three points deducted. In a tight race the loss of those points seriously affected both clubs.

Eddie Berdusco of North York Rockets was the league's leading goalscorers with 14 goals, while Geoff Aunger of London and Carlo Corazzin of Winnipeg finished with eight. Paolo Ceccarelli of North York was leading goalkeeper.

CANADA

Final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vancouver 86ers	20	11	3	6	42	28	36
North York Rockets	20	8	6	6	25	20	30
Winnipeg Fury	20	8	1	11	27	43	25
Montreal Supra	20	6	7	7	29	24	25
London Lazers	20	6	7	7	25	32	22
Toronto Blizzard*	20	6	6	8	28	29	21

** Three points deducted for unsportsmanlike conduct.*

COLIN **JOSE**

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IT'S AS GOOD AS THE REAL THING

Mac the lad

McCOIST

Joker Ally has a serious task

BY PHIL GORDON

GOALS and words were always Ally McCoist's most precious commodities but there was never a more crucial time for Scotland's golden boy to produce the former . . . or else his country will be taking a vow of silence.

The Scots face Italy on November 18 in Glasgow, in a qualifying World Cup tie they simply must win to keep their hopes of reaching the finals for a sixth successive occasion.

If they fail, they will be back among the international outcasts until the dust has settled on America '94 — and very few fans in this football-mad nation will be able to remain quiet about that.

Rangers striker McCoist, last season's European top scorer, is the man who shoulders much of the burden for securing those two vital points, not least because the clash with the Italians is taking place on his home patch.

The Scots are using Ibrox Stadium to stage the game because FIFA rulings on all-seated grounds for qualifiers denies them Hampden Park, which is undergoing massive renovation to eliminate its huge terraces.

Scotland have never lost a World Cup qualifier at Hampden but the game at Ibrox in the competition, last month against Portugal, hardly heralded a bright new dawn.

Andy Roxburgh's team were once again beset with problems and drew 0-0, leaving them with one point out of four after losing in Switzerland in September.

That's why the Scots are under such pressure to beat the star-laden Italians.

McCoist sums up the task with a sharpness that has become his trademark on the pitch, declaring: "This is make or break for us!

"Against Portugal we really didn't create anything in the way of chances. It was a bit of a non-event for us and we can't afford another performance like that.

"If anything Italy may now be even more dangerous than they would have been cause of the point they dropped against the Swiss. I don't think they will be looking for anything less than a win at Ibrox because their pride has been hurt.

"So both teams will attack — we've no other option!

"The fact that the Swiss managed to get two away goals against them offers us hope. Both came from mistakes by defenders.

"They also conceded two against the Dutch in a friendly in September before winning 3-2. It's still difficult to believe, because Italy have always been one of the best defensive sides in the world."

So scope may exist for McCoist to capitalise against Italy — although many critics brush off his prolific scoring record and say he does not have the class to penetrate a top-class defence, even one in a state of flux, like Italy's.

McCoist is a scoring paradox. His international record is tame by comparison with his club figures: 12 goals in 42 games is not good enough. But his bubbly personality and public image transcend club loyalties, winning him the admiration of other supporters, even Celtic's.

This is make or break for us

All wish he could translate his Rangers ratio into a Scottish equation and solve the scoring problem.

The 30-year-old McCoist says: "My record with Scotland is not great but it's not as bad as some people make out. Against Portugal I had one half chance, which is not a great ratio, and you have to be given chances to score goals. But I firmly believe I will score goals in any company."

Failure to score in the European Championship has not diluted his confidence. "I don't think I have any reason to let Sweden get me down. I felt the tournament was a real bonus for everyone involved with the Scotland team.

"We went there as no-hopers and proved a lot of people wrong with good performances against the Dutch and Germans and then beating the CIS. I would have liked a goal but the fact I didn't score wasn't a major disappointment."

Two of the heaviest sources of criticism in the past have been his Rangers supporters and his former manager, Graeme Souness. McCoist won the fans over, eventually, but Souness constantly

hammered his striker in the press, and often dropped him.

When Souness left Ibrox in 1991 McCoist had been reduced to the role of substitute so often that he was called "The Judge" because he spent so much time on the bench. He was close to seeking the Ibrox exit because of that.

And that would have been a sad way for Rangers and McCoist to part — for they were made for each other.

McCoist, born in East Kilbride, some 15 miles outside Glasgow,was Rangers daft as a schoolboy and dreamed of playing for the club. His talent as a teenager was such that there was no shortage of clubs wanting to take him on, Rangers included.

But McCoist, displaying an astute eye even then, decided that he would have a better chance of breaking into first-team football at a smaller club, and joined St Johnstone.

He was too good to remain at that level and at 18 he signed for Sunderland in a £400,000 move. The switch was not a profitable one for McCoist — though he met his future wife Allison there — and with Sunderland struggling to keep their heads above water in the First Division, he took the brunt of the criticism.

Manager Alan Durban admitted that survival was more important than attacking flair, and a cautious Sunderland side offered McCoist little support. Goals refused to flow and his confidence dwindled.

He was not unhappy to leave Roker in 1983 . . . especially as the destination was Ibrox!

Manager John Greig bought McCoist for only £180,000 and he suddenly found his goal touch again. He scored within 27 seconds of his first match against Celtic, and became top club scorer in that season — a feat he has repeated seven times in the eight campaigns since.

But the "match made in heaven" did not produce an instant love affair. Ally loved Rangers but the fans remained cool because of his misses.

With Rangers struggling to become even the FOURTH best team in the country in the mid-eighties, they were unprepared to forgive any profligacy from their striker.

The relationship degenerated so much that McCoist dreaded going out in public, but he gritted his teeth and eventually the goals total rose and the missed chances grew fewer. By the time Souness joined the club as player-manager in 1986, McCoist had just gained his first cap.

Goals came in the first campaign under Souness, 1986-87, as Rangers swept to their first championship in nine years. Robert Fleck, one of that team's stars, then went to Norwich, and McCoist had a string of partners from Mark Falco to Kevin Drinkell, Mo Johnston to Mark Hateley. But no matter who he was paired with, the result was the same. McCoist scored. Five titles have been gained in six years, plus a Scottish Cup and a monopoly on the Skol Cup.

The fairytale was marred by only one interlude — the rift with Souness in 1990-91.

Hateley's arrival broke up the successful pairing McCoist had enjoyed with Johnston.

The fans, forgetting and forgiving, wanted McCoist back.

They chanted his name during every game while he sat on the bench next to his fuming manager.

Eventually Souness left, Walter Smith took over, and McCoist was restored.

His 39 goals last year helped the side to a League and Cup double, and 24 in the first three months of this season have put a look of invincibility on Rangers within domestic football.

He is an idol revered by the fans who once booed him. There are Ally T-shirts, Ally videos, Ally books. His smiling face is on everything and he is courted by the media, especially TV, for which is character makes him a natural.

National coach Roxburgh even dubbed him Jack The Lad for his off-the-pitch persona of squad joker.

But there is a growing maturity too. Roxburgh has made him the Scotland vice-captain and during Richard Gough's recent absence, Walter Smith felt confident enough to make him club skipper.

Now the Italy game provides him with a chance to bring on some international joy.

On target . . . McCoist scores against Switzerland in a World Cup qualifier last September (above).

In tandem . . . McCoist and Rangers partner Mark Hateley celebrate another goal (above right).

Off target . . . McCoist comes under pressure from the CIS defence in Sweden last summer (right).

Africa

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' CUP

Ismaili score six against the favourites

BY MARK **GLEESON**

HOLDERS Club Africain of Tunisia have lost the chance to become the first team to gain back-to-back triumphs in the Africa Champions' Cup, and the favourites this year are now a side who were among the trophy's first winners.

Egyptian club Ismaili, for so long in the shadows of their more illustrious compatriots, Al Ahly and Zamalek, were winners of the fifth edition of the Cup back in 1969.

Ismaili comprehensively beat the Tunisians in the quarter-finals, netting six times and going through with a comfortable 6-4 aggregate.

Their 3-3 draw in Tunis in the first leg set the tone for the tie, with the Egyptians twice coming from behind to obtain a creditable result. In the return, Ismaili took a 2-0 lead inside 20 minutes and wrapped up the result well before half-time.

Ismaili now meet neighbours El Hilal from Sudan in the semi-final.

El Hilal have had the most fortunate of paths to the final four, winning one tie when their opponents withdrew, another on the away goals rule, and a third in a penalty shoot-out.

The other semi-final has great potential. ASEC Abidjan pulled off a great escape act to squeeze past Ashante Kotoko in the quarter-finals and meet Wydad Casablanca of Morocco, who beat goal-hungry Nkana Red Devils from Zambia.

ASEC, seeking to become only the second club from Ivory Coast to win the Champions' Cup, looked dead and buried after losing their quarter-final first leg at home.

Abdoulaye Traore, who spurned a move to France to help his club in their bid for the title, scored on the half-hour to put ASEC in the lead, but two second-half goals inside two minutes took Kotoko home with a surprise lead.

ASEC went into the cauldron of the Kumasi stadium for the return game and escaped with a 3-2 win, to go through on the away goals rule.

Wydad did well to concede only two goals to the rampant Devils in their first leg on the Zambian copperbelt, where Senegalese international Moussa Ndaw scored a vital away goal. Ndaw was among the scorers in the return as Wydad won 3-1 and went through with a goal to spare.

EGYPT

CAIRO'S Al Zamalek are Egyptian champions, for the seventh time in their history.

They finished three points ahead of Al Ismaili, with Al Mehalla another four points away in third place.

Zamalek lost only one of their 26 League games, were top scorers with 36, and stood out as "misers" with only seven goals conceded.

1991-92 Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Zamalek	26	15	10	1	36	7	40
Al Ismaili	26	13	11	2	27	12	37
Al Mehalla	26	11	11	4	27	11	33
Al Ahly	26	10	10	6	25	14	30
Olympic	26	9	11	6	34	21	29
Al Mesri	26	8	9	9	26	22	25
Al Ittihad	26	6	12	8	12	23	24
Al Qanat	26	7	9	10	20	30	23
Al Merrikh	26	5	13	8	15	26	23
Arab Contractors	26	6	10	10	12	15	22
Railways	26	4	14	8	16	25	22
Damanhour	26	6	8	12	13	25	20
Arsenal	26	2	14	10	16	28	18
Al Mansoura	26	2	14	10	10	30	18

Leading scorers
13 — Ahmed Al Kas (Olympic)
11 — Mohamed Ramadan (Al Ahly)
Relegation play-offs
Arab Contractors 0 v 0 Railways
Railways 0 v 0 Arab Contractors
Railways won 5-4 on pens
Relegated: Arab Contractors, Damanhour, Arsenal, Al Mansoura.
Promoted: Tanta, Baladiyyat Al Mehalla, Al Menia, Shebin.
FA Cup Final: Al Ahly 2 v 1 Al Zamalek

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS' CUP

Quarter-finals

Nkana Red Devils (Zam) v Wydad Casablanca (Mor)	2-1	1-3
ASEC Abidjan (IC) v Ashante Kotoko (Gha)	1-2	3-2
Gor Mahia (Ken) v El Hilal (Sud)	2-0	0-2
(El Hilal won 4-2 on pens)		
Club Africain (Tun, holders) v Ismaili (Egy)	3-3	1-3

Semi-finals
ASEC Abidjan v Wydad Casablanca
Ismaili v El Hilal

Final
ASEC or Wydad v Ismaili or El Hilal

Leading scorers
5 ..... Mutale (Nkana Red Devils)
4 ..... Mounkaila (Sahel SC), Mwamba (Youth Africans), Malitoli (Nkana Red Devils).
3 ..... Bebe, Kouadio (ASEC Abidjan), Remi (AS Sotema), Ndaw (Wydad Casablanca), F Rouissi, A Sellimi (Club Africain).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Quarter-finals

Diables Rogue (Fatima (CAR) v Vital 'O (Bur)	0-0	1-2
Al Merreikh (Sud) v USM (Gab)	3-0	1-2
Mogas 90 FC (Ben) v CS Daring Motema Pembe (Zai)	0-0	0-3
Al Ahly (Egy) v Africa Sports (IC)	2-0	0-3

Semi-finals
Al Merreikh v Vital 'O
Africa Sports v Daring

Final
Al Merreikh or Vital 'O v Africa Sports or Daring

Leading scorers
5 ..... Okolosi (Africa Sports)
4 ..... Ramadan (Al Ahly), Dube (Denver Sundowns)
3 ..... Oliha (Africa Sports), M Mandlazi (Denver Sundowns), Coker (Ports Authority).

CAF CUP

Quarter-finals

AS Gagnoa (IC) v Ferroviario de Maputo (Moz)	0-2	1-3
Nakivubo Sports Villa (Uga) v ASMO (Gab)	3-1	0-1
ASM Oran (Alg) v CA Bizerte (Tun)	0-0	0-2
Shooting Stars SC (Nig) v Mbongo Sport (Zai)	1-0	0-1
(Stars won 4-3 on pens)		

Semi-finals
Ferroviario v Nakivubo
CA Bizerte v Shooting Stars.

Asia

BY PAUL **MOON**

Kids shine as seniors depart

AUSTRALIA are eager to make a major impact as hosts to the World Youth Cup next March. So the national Under-20 squad's recent tour of Europe was particularly significant.

The nine-match programme got off to an inauspicious start when a Borussia Dortmund selection, containing six players with Bundesliga experience, coasted to a 5-0 victory within a day of the 24-hour flight from Sydney having been completed.

But once the Aussies had overcome jetlag and acclimatised to the conditions — most of them experienced snow and sleet for the first time — performances improved considerably.

Most opponents transpired to be youth combinations strengthened by the inclusion of three or four senior players. One exception, KAA Gent, fielded 11 first-team squad members and won 5-1, although the tourists led at half-time.

Wins over Groningen, RKC Waalwijk and Cercle Bruges were recorded, but a 2-2 draw with an Ajax under-21 line-up containing three first-team players provided the tour highlight. But for a missed penalty, Australia would have won.

By the time the squad returned home, they were giving every indication of being able to extend an already impressive record in FIFA age-limit competitions.

Unfortunately the exodus of Australian players to Europe continues unabated. Ned Zelic's long-anticipated transfer was completed when he joined Borussia Dortmund for a fee of £300,000.

According to reports, Zelic rejected a move to Leeds United because he anticipated work permit problems in England, and decided against linking up with Genoa, believing Italy would present too tough a challenge at this stage of his career.

No sooner had Zelic departed than three other young Aussies signed for Belgian clubs. Adelaide City midfielder Ross Aloisi was snapped up by newly promoted FC Boom, where he will spend a year on loan, and defender Tony Vidmar went to Ekeren for £150,000.

The same sum enabled Ekeren to obtain Milan Blagojevic from Marconi.

Zelic, Blagojevic and Vidmar all featured in the Australian side who reached the Olympic semi-finals in Barcelona.

LEBANON

SOCCER in Lebanon seems to have recovered — at last — after the problems caused by the 1975 civil war.

Clubs from the various communities took part in a reunified league, won by Al Ansar for the fourth time in a row.

Al Ansar also won the FA Cup for the third successive time, and look to be even stronger next season, with the owner, Sheik Rafik Al Hariri, announcing a buying spree.

The title was decided by a play-off after two qualifying groups, topped by Al Ansar and Tadamon. The difference in class was obvious, for Al Ansar won 16 of their 18 games and drew the other two, with goal figures of 62-5, whereas Tadamon took only 28 points, with figures of 24-10.

Not surprisingly Al Ansar won both legs of the play-off, 2-1 and 2-0.

Al Istiklal were relegated with a total of minus one point. They had taken three, from one win and one draw, but were penalised four points for failing to fulfil a fixture.

Harakat Al Shabab, promoted for the first time a year earlier, finished fifth in their ten-club group and caused a surprise by reaching the Cup Final. Not only that, they held Al Ansar to 0-0 over 90 minutes before conceding two goals in extra time.

1991-92 Final Table
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ansar	18	16	2	0	62	5	34
Al Safa	18	14	2	2	58	14	30
Al Neejmeh	18	8	5	5	23	21	21
Tadamon (Tyre)	18	8	4	6	28	24	20
Al Borj	18	4	10	4	20	20	18
Shabab Al Sahel	18	6	5	7	22	12	17
Al Ahly (Sidon)	18	4	6	8	18	32	14
Shebibe Al Mazraa	18	5	3	10	24	52	13
Al Arz	18	4	2	12	15	39	10
Al Istiklal *	18	1	1	16	18	59	-1

** 4 points deducted by League.*

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tadamon (Beirut)	18	11	6	1	24	10	28
Al Salam (Zghorta)	18	8	6	4	26	17	22
Riyada Wal Adab	18	7	8	3	25	18	22
Homentmen	18	7	6	5	18	19	20
Harakat Al Shabab	18	6	7	5	18	14	19
Al Ahly (Sarba)	18	4	9	5	11	11	17
Racing	18	5	7	6	11	15	17
Homenmen	18	7	2	9	18	22	16
La Sagesse	18	3	8	7	15	22	14
Tadamon (Tripoli)	18	1	3	14	13	31	5

Leading scorers
20 — Walid Dahrouj (Al Safa)
18 — Fadi Alloush (Al Ansar)
16 — Frankie (Al Safa)
Championship play-off
Al Ansar 2 v 1 Tadamon (Beirut)
Tadamon (Beirut) 0 v 2 Al Ansar
Relegation play-off
Shebebe Al Mazraa 0 v 2 Homenmen
Homenmen 1 v 1 Shebibe Al Mazraa
Relegated: Shebibe Al Mazraa, Al Arz, Al Istikal, La Sagesse, Tadamon (Tripoli).
Promoted: Al Majd, Al Ijtimayi.

FIJI

FIJI regained the Melanesian Cup by beating New Caledonia on goal difference in this year's event, staged at Port Vila, Vanuatu.

The outcome hinged upon Vanatuan referee Kaltatak Kalokis, who awarded Fiji a controversial penalty, in the 66th minute of their game against the New Caledonians.

Ruvuama Madigi scored to earn Fiji a 2-2 draw. That left the teams equal on points and goal difference.

In the final round, two days later, New Caledonia could defeat Solomon Islands only 1-0, while Fiji overcame the hosts 2-0.

Bulls miss twin chance

WHEN only five weeks of the New Zealand domestic season were left, Waikato United looked a very good bet for a League-Cup double.

They had qualified for the Chatham Cup Final and held a handy lead in the League. Then things started to go wrong for "The Bulls" from Hamilton, who include former Chelsea defender Gary Locke, now 38.

During the run-in, Waikato dropped points regularly, allowing Waitakere City to storm past them and finish four points clear — although Waikato still had the best goals for and goals against records in the competition.

Waikatere, coached by former Watford player Keith Pritchett, were unbeaten away from home.

Waikato's Gary Locke, formerly of Chelsea.

They owed much to international strikers Noel Barkley and Darren McLennan. Barkley's 20 goals enabled him to regain the Golden Boot he won in 1989 with Mount Wellington, and earned him the Player of the Year award.

A 2-0 home defeat by Miramar Rangers on the last weekend of the League programme confirmed that Waikato would not win the Championship, and a fortnight later, they faced Miramar again in the Chatham Cup Final.

Miramar borrowed Kiwi international Billy Wright from Morwell Falcons in Australia for the game — a move which would have provoked a storm in many countries, but hardly raised a comment in New Zealand.

Wright played a major part in the Wellington club's 3-1 triumph. Their first major honour since 1966.

After Darren Fellowes had put Waikato ahead, Wright headed an equaliser and scored a penalty after a foul by Locke. Vaughan Coveny hit the third after running from his own half.

Despite the heroics of Wright and Coveny, Neal Cave was a deserving winner of the Jack Batty Memorial Trophy as Man of the Match.

Coveny had been named Pepsi Young Player of the Year on the previous evening, and Miramar's most famous old boy, Werder Bremen striker Wynton Rufer, was named Personality of the Year.

Waikato did not end the season entirely empty-handed — Roger Wilkinson was Coach of the Year and Darren Fellowes was Players' Player of the Year.

Domestic soccer will be restructured next year, with the National League being scrapped in favour of a regionalised competition. Most believe that the new format will trigger a drastic drop in playing standards.

Grampus in great demand

JAPAN is truly the land of the rising appearance fee.

Big names attracted for friendly games this year include the Argentina, Brazil and Wales national squads, Juventus, Eintracht Frankfurt, Corinthians, Santos and Internacional.

In return, Grampus Eight are being flooded with invitations to play overseas . . . after Gary Lineker arrives.

Manchester United, Leeds and even Saudi Arabia have all approached the Nagoya club, and Leeds have clinched a deal. Grampus Eight are scheduled to visit Elland Road on April 21 to take part in the city's centenary celebrations.

Manchester United were not so lucky. They wanted to play a pre-season friendly in July but that would have clashed with the Eight's own J League commitments.

Leeds and the other English clubs will soon be even better known in Japan. NHK, the Japan Broadcasting Corporation, start satellite broadcasts of the Premier League this month. Italian games have been on the air in Japan for a year.

Clubs who failed to gain admittance to the new J League are still knocking at the door.

The front-runners are Yamaha, fourth last season and still fielding internationals Mitsunori Yoshida and Masashi Nakayama. They lost out in the voting to neighbour Shimizu S Pulse but still have plenty of support, especially since Shimizu have been rocked by an embezzlement scandal.

Other clubs determined to make the grade include Hitachi, also a First Division side last year, and two of the great names of Japanese football. Fujita and Yanmar. All four teams are performing well in the First Division of the Japan Football League (the equivalent of England's new First Division).

The J League will reconsider applications from Yamaha, Hitachi and Fujita by the end of this year, but Yanmar still cannot satisfy all the entry requirements. The three clubs could win associate membership as early as December, which would allow them to play in next year's J League Cup but not in the League.

That confusing status would not last long. The idea is to expand "J" membership very soon.

Preparations for Japan's World Cup campaign are progressing smoothly. World Cup Japan 2002's bidding committee have announced that the candidate sites have now been reduced to 15, plus Tokyo, and should be whittled down to 12 soon.

One of the underdogs in the bidding, Aomori in the far north, appointed Pele as an adviser.

MIKE **PLASTOW** AND MICHI **ISHIJIMA**

MALAYSIA

MALAYSIA'S ranking within Asia went up considerably when South Korea were defeated 2-1 in the Independence Cup Final in Jakarta.

A first-minute goal from Azman Adani and Lee Kim Wing's own goal seven minutes later put the Malaysians on the road to victory. Although Lee Ki Hyung pulled one back just before the half-hour, South Korea failed to score again.

Malaysia and South Korea qualified for the final after topping the round robin section, which also featured Indonesia, Australia and Thailand's youth selection.

JORDAN

Strong defence was the key to Al Wahadat's Jordanian League title success.

They conceded only seven goals in 18 games, half as many as the next most efficient defence, and finished six points clear of Al Faisali.

The Cup Final paired the champions with the League's leading scorers, Al Ramtha, who won with a goal by Fayez Bedeiwi just after half-time.

● TWO of Liverpool's apprentice professionals, Sean Fallon and Tom White, helped New Zealand to advance through the Oceania section of the World Youth Cup qualifying rounds in Tahiti with a 100 per cent record.

The Kiwis beat Fiji 2-1, Tahiti 1-0, Vanuatu 3-0 and Papua New Guinea 2-0. Australia, as hosts, qualify automatically for the finals.

The tournament provided another success for a man with English connections.

The New Zealand team are coached by Allan Jones, formerly of Blyth Spartans and Darlington in his native country.

Madjer tops the list

AL ITTIHAD, possibly the most popular club in Qatar, won the League title for the first time.

They took 25 points out of a possible 32 and lost only once — to Qatar FC, who finished second a point behind.

Qatar FC were slightly unlucky not to finish on top for the first time since 1977. They had the best goals records, scoring 29 and conceding a mere six.

Their Algerian international, Rabah Madjer (above), who used to play for FC Porto in Portugal, was the competition's top scorer with 12.

Al Ahly, sixth out of nine in the League, had consolation by winning the Emir's Cup for the fourth time since its inception in 1972. They beat Al Rayyan 2-1 after being a goal down.

The scorers, Walid Ali and Abdullah Jassem, were both in the Olympic Games squad who caused a surprise by reaching the quarter-finals.

QATAR

1991-92 Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Ittihad	16	10	5	1	22	10	25
Qatar FC	16	10	4	2	29	6	24
Al Sadd	16	9	4	3	22	14	22
Al Arabi	16	9	3	4	25	18	21
Al Rayyan	16	7	4	5	24	12	18
Al Ahly	16	5	2	9	20	25	12
Al Wakra	16	4	3	9	15	29	11
Al Taawon	16	2	2	12	14	33	[illegible]
Al Shamal	16	2	1	13	17	41	5

SYRIA

PENALTY points proved crucial to clubs at both ends of the Syrian table.

The six points they both forfeited, because of crowd disturbances, robbed Al Ittihad of the title and condemned Al Sho'ola to relegation.

Al Ittihad's misfortune enabled Al Horria to finish four points ahead of them, with Jabala a single point behind the champions.

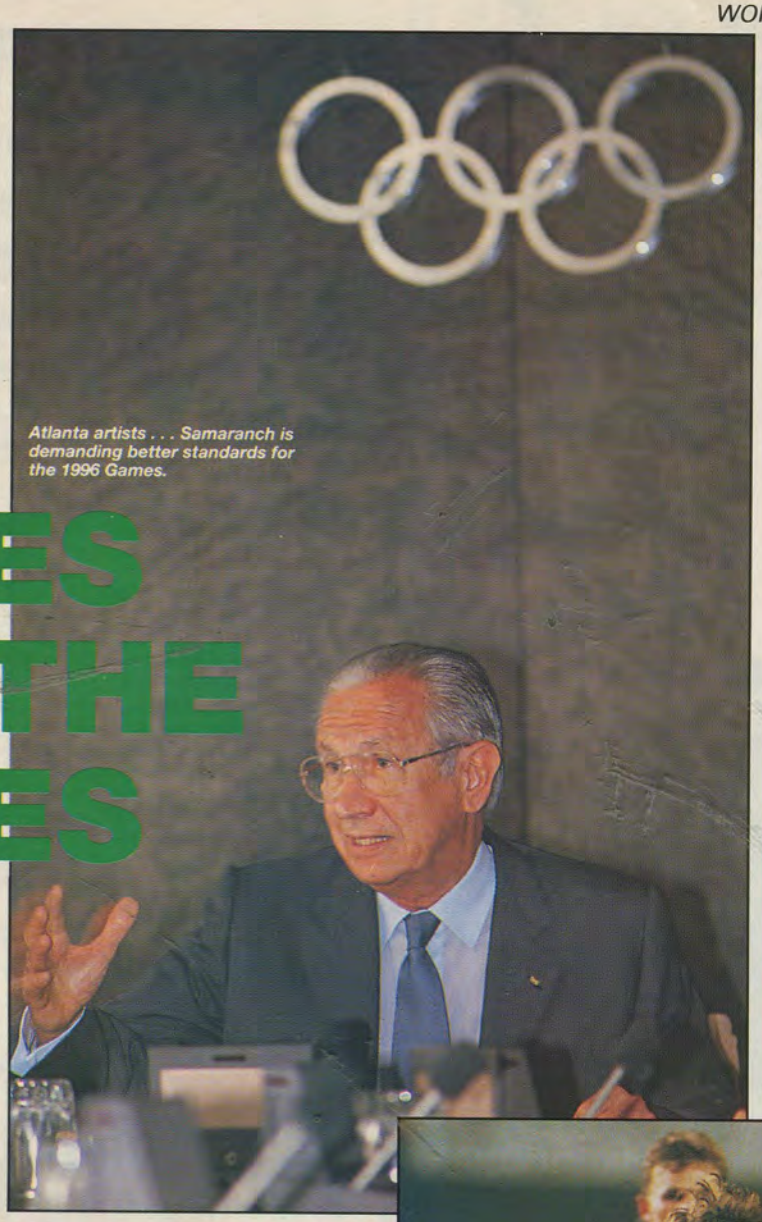
The Cup Final gave Al Ittihad the opportunity to prove they were really the nation's top team, but Al Horria's Abdullatif Al Helow netted the only goal in the 79th minute to give his club the double.

The losers' frustration reached breaking point two minutes from time when the League's leading scorer, Mohamed Afash, was sent off for retaliation.

THE KEIR RADNEDGE COMMENTARY

EXCLUSIVE

GAMES FOR THE GAMES



Atlanta artists . . . Samaranch is demanding better standards for the 1996 Games.

SOCCER will survive to fight again at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. I was given this assurance in an exclusive interview with Juan Antonio Samaranch at the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne.

Samaranch, the all-powerful Spanish president of the IOC, was anything but happy with the football tournament at the Barcelona Games. But suggestions that soccer might go its separate way were knocked on the head. Samaranch said: "We were disappointed because football has always been such an important part of the Olympic Games and that is how we want it to stay for Atlanta and beyond. We are already planning talks with our friends in FIFA with regard to the future organisation of the Olympic football tournament.

"The problem in Barcelona was that having an under-23 tournament meant the best players and the best countries were not properly represented. What we want in Atlanta is a tournament of far better quality than Barcelona.

"The president of FIFA (Joao Havelange) is one of the oldest members of the IOC and I understand his wish to keep control of and protect the interests of the World Cup. But at the same time he wants to be able to watch a very good tournament in Atlanta.

"After all, he knows — who better? — what marvellous publicity the Olympic Games provides for a sport. In Barcelona the tournament was, ultimately, a success. But everyone knows why that was: it was because Spain were successful. The team maintained interest because of their progress to the Final and then, of course, won it."

Samaranch acknowledged that the Olympic tournament should not be an Alternative World Cup. He understood why FIFA had imposed arbitrary restrictions on the qualification of players. But he also wants a new formula. Samaranch said: "In Atlanta we will not see a second World Cup. There will have to be some restrictions and regulation of which players take part. But improved quality is essential!"

Where FIFA go now is uncertain. But it seems inevitable that the IOC will want some sort of qualifying system which ensures the likes of major soccer nations, such as Germany, Italy, Brazil and Argentina, all making the trip to the States. And then, of course, there are the women.

Michelle Akers-Stahl and her Women's World Cup-winners are busy lobbying for the introduction of their own competition at the Games.

Perhaps that's the answer. Swap the men for the women.

Pressure – what pressure?

PRESSURE. It's the most over-rated word in the soccer dictionary.

Managers lecture the media on the incredible pressure under which their players perform ("You just wouldn't understand"); directors warn their managers that if results don't improve they will be "under pressure"; and the multitude of players now falling over themselves to be TV analysts waste no time thus explaining away the mistakes of their fellow professionals.

But pressure is subjective. Everyone is under pressure in life. And everyone must resist it or wilt beneath it. Whether you're a footballer or an accountant, a dustman or a student, your pressure is your own.

Missing an open goal in front of 30,000 people is humiliating. But pressure? No. Pressure is being told that you're out of the only job you've ever known.

Soccer is not an island. A loosening of the blinkers would do no harm for many of those within the industry.

Final force . . . Quico takes on the Polish defence during Spain's Olympic victory.

HEAR IT FROM THE REF

I'M STARTING to feel sorry for referees. Maybe it's a sign of senility. After all, isn't the role of the referee to be everybody's scapegoat?

The losers blame one bad decision and winners often achieve their success "despite the ref."

I find it banal that, in this day and age, English league referees are ordered to keep their thoughts to themselves after controversial matches.

Why? They work and train hard enough to reach the peak of their part-time profession. Frequently they are the butt of the one-eyed monsters to be found within the game. Why shouldn't they answer back?

Why shouldn't they share the benefits of their wisdom with the public at large? They are not uneducated louts who can't put one word in front of the other. In many cases they are highly-intelligent (and, away from the pitch, highly-articulate) men. Surely they should be allowed to make their own contribution to the varied issues which keep soccer a matter for public debate.

A little education on refereeing matters could only benefit the game. Players, for example, might be encouraged to check the Laws. I saw one First Division match recently — Notts County v Grimsby — which was marred by three expulsions and six other bookings. Yet referee David Elleray was only carrying out his instructions.

The public pay good money to see the ball being kicked around — not to see players wasting time yapping or, that greatest irritant, kicking the ball away at free-kicks and throws. These are now yellow card offences. And quite right. They were always an insult to the paying fan. Not that many players in the Premier League and First Division yet appear to have registered the fact.

Managers are complaining this season, in the wake of the new Laws tightening up on time-wasting and dissent, that referees should be allowed to use their discretion. In the past, of course, managers complained that they did not know where they stood because referees were using their . . . discretion.

What do the referees believe? We should be told. Ideally, by the referees.

Welcome back, Gazza

PAUL GASCOIGNE may be a big kid some of whose antics make you cringe. But he is very welcome back among the living.

He turned on the clown's face during his final Tottenham farewell — Lazio's 2-0 win in a wet White Hart Lane friendly.

At the end Lazio skipper Claudio Sclosa was presented with a very fine "Capital Cup" by Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar.

Gazza, with appropriate words and gestures, suggested Sclosa lift the trophy high for fans on the far side to see it. Sclosa did precisely that . . . and Gascoigne pulled his skipper's shorts down.

Sounds mad. Sounds childish. Sounds unprofessional. Yes, yes, yes. But the fans went away with a smile on their face. And isn't that what football needs!

HOW LEEDS FOUND JUSTICE

I HAPPEN to be among the minority (in this country) who thought UEFA's disciplinary commission were exactly right with their judgment of Solomon over the Leeds v Stuttgart fiasco.

But I say that from knowledge that there was rather more to the issue than met the eyes of some of the anti-German jingoists firing off opinions in all directions.

For one thing, this was far from the first time that a club has fielded an ineligible player in European competition and on no previous occasion had instant expulsion been the punishment.

Here's the background, much of which *WORLD SOCCER* readers will know: During the summer UEFA confirmed further changes to the foreign player restrictions. Clubs in European competitions are now allowed to field a maximum of three foreign players plus two assimilated players (players who have completed a minimum five years in that country including three years at youth i.e. under-19 level).

However, UEFA's original instruction as to what was and was not permitted in which area of the game (European club and/or domestic competition) created such confusion that the instruction had to be redrafted.

So, one initial point of embarrassment for UEFA. Nobody disputes that Stuttgart blundered mightily at Elland Road. Their first mistake was to include FOUR foreigners in the match squad of 16: Iceland's Sverisson, Switzerland's Knup and the former Yugoslavs Dubajic and Simanic.

Spanish settler . . . Chapman and Buchwald during the Leeds-Stuttgart decider.

That should have been spotted by the match observer, Edgar Obertufer, the secretary of the Swiss Federation. Indeed, two weeks earlier, UEFA's match observer at the Cup-winners' Cup tie between Werder Bremen and Hannover had spotted one foreigner too many on the team sheet and sent the sheet back for the necessary squad change to be made.

Significantly, the Elland Road observer did not do that — a second point of embarrassment for UEFA. How come Stuttgart took four foreigners to Elland Road?

Executive Ulrich Ruf told me: "Both Dubajic and Simanic were carrying injuries. We thought if one was not fit we would need the other one, so both players travelled and trained — and both were fit. So the trainer (Christoph Daum) included them both in the squad. I had told him before he left Germany: don't get this wrong or it could cost us millions. But, in all the excitement, he forgot."

Leeds won 4-1 on the night and lost on the away goals rule. But Stuttgart's first-leg 3-0 victory made use of the standard 3-0 forfeit a simple solution. Then it was just a question of settling a date and venue for the replay.

Once the many and varied World Cup managers had had their say it all went to Barcelona, Leeds won 2-1 and justice was seen to be done. Which, surely, was the right outcome.

Dark mutterings about German television money was never a serious concern. *RTL+* had already signed for the Champions' Cup semi-final groups. The company had done so during the summer, not knowing whether a German club would be there or not.

Stuttgart are, of course, big losers. Just look at the money guaranteed in the Champions' Cup mini-league semi-finals. Stuttgart are missing out, but that's their own fault.

BOOK NOW!

THIS IS book time, again. *WORLD SOCCER* offer no lucrative cheque or trophy to the best football books around. Merely our modest accolade. Current publications fall into these categories (books named in alphabetical order):

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:

Guinness Record of World Soccer (nothing to do with this magazine but a brilliant compendium of international results nonetheless — edited by Guy Oliver, Guinness Publishing, £19.95); News of the World Football Annual (the invaluable pocket guide — edited by Albert Sewell and Bill Bateson, HarperCollins, £3.75); Playing in Europe (all this seasons clubs and players in the European cups — edited by Mike Hammond, Sports Projects, £7.95); Rothmans Football Yearbook (the statistical bible — edited by Jack Rollin, Headline Publishing, £14.99).

SOMETHING DIFFERENT:

Match of the Day (roll back the memories with a complete record from 1964 — by John Motson, BBC Books, £12.95).

CLUBS:

Double Champions (goal by goal through Rangers' league and cup-winning season — by Alan Fairley, Forth Sports Marketing, £6.50); Everton Player by Player (latest in the Ivan Ponting series — Guinness Publishing, £14.99).

STANDARDS:

International Football Book No 34 (longest-running publication of its kind — Souvenir Press, £10.95); Shoot! Annual 1993 (maintains the Christmas stocking standard — IPC Magazines, £3.95); Supporters Guide 1993 AND the Supporters Guide to Scottish Football 1993 AND the Supporters Guide to Non-League Clubs (how you get there — all from Soccer Book Publishing at £4.99 and £3.99 and £4.99 respectively).

STATISTICAL SPECIALIST:

European Football Championships 1958-1992 (updating an old favourite — John Robinson, Soccer Book Publishing, £10.99); European Soccer Who's Who (detailing league footballers from the European mainstream — Nich Hills and Tim Barnett, Guinness Publishing, £7.99); Irish Football Handbook (edited by Gerry Desmond and Dave Galvin, Red Card Publications, Cork, £4.99); Football Association Yearbook 1992-93 (the official line on the domestic game — Stanley Paul, £6.99).

MISCELLANEOUS:

The Top 10 of Sport (the ultimate lists book — Russell Ash and Ian Morrison, Headline, £14.99); We'll Support You Evermore (a mixture of football essays from lecturers, teachers, even a Prime Minister — edited by David Bull, Duckworth, £7.95).

Cartagena facing closure

S. America

COLOMBIA

WITH the introduction of automatic promotion and relegation to the professional game, there are now two battles being fought as the Colombian season starts to build up.

There is the traditional scramble for a top-eight finish and passage into the final stages of the championship, plus the scramble to avoid the drop.

At the moment Real Cartagena are the hot favourites to lose their place. Others, such as Medellin, have been flirting with the lower reaches of the table, but Cartagena have been rooted there, helped by a 16-game winless streak.

That ended with a shock defeat of Junior Barranquilla, but Cartagena's directors have already let it be known that a last-place finish will mean the club's demise. A drop to Division B would be like an English club going from Premier League to the GM Vauxhall Conference in one go.

The prospect of playing in some of Colombia's more obscure outposts in front of a handful of people would be too much for the club, who relocated to Cartagena, Colombia's oldest city, only this season, from Barranquilla.

There are no such worries for Deportivo Cali, continuing to cling to the top.

To fortify their title aspirations, the club signed two more foreigners.

One is the Brazilian Teodoro Antonio Dos Santos — Toninho — via Honduras and America of Mexico. The other is Jorge Acosta, born in Barranquilla but raised in the United States and capped in the recent international against Colombia.

Two Colombian internationals of recent vintage have been in the news.

Albeiro Usuriaga was arrested in Cali for a traffic offence, one of several he has built up, and for resisting arrest. He was subsequently released.

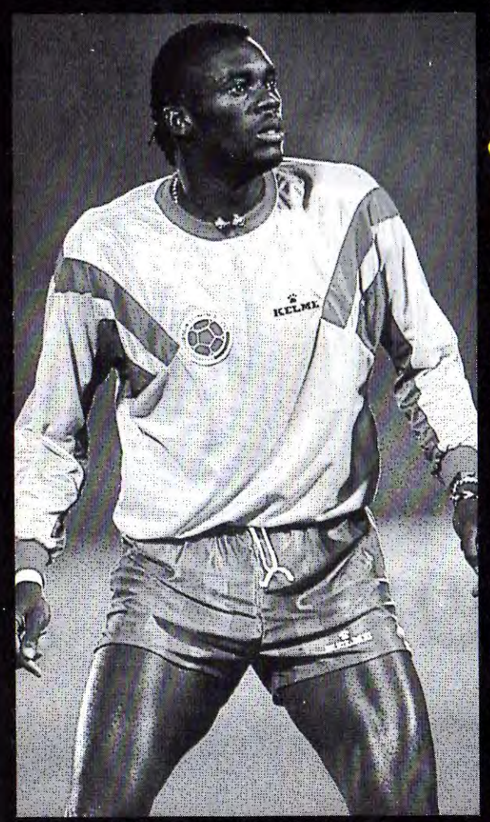
At least Usuriaga was able to continue his career, unlike Carlos Enrique Estrada of Deportivo Cali, who has retired with a knee injury.

Estrada, capped 12 times, is only 30, and still hoping that the knee may recover enough to allow him to reverse his decision.

Crowd violence seems to be slowly on the increase. Missile-throwing is not an unknown event, especially for the unsuspecting referee who might stray away from a police escort at an international.

Various injuries were sustained in Cali, during trouble between America and Deportivo fans, and Manizales had their stadium closed after a linesman was attacked by fans of Once Phillips.

KEITH **SMITH**



In trouble . . . Usuriaga was arrested and later released.

ARGENTINA

● **COACHES**, especially in South America, tend to lose their jobs if they do not produce quick results and generally do not last long with one club.

But Newell's Old Boys of Argentina have given their junior team coach, Jorge Griffa, a new 10-year contract until 2002.

Griffa, who frequently has declined offers to take over the first team, has been in charge of junior sides at the club since 1972 and virtually all the first-team players have passed through his hands.

● **ANOTHER** Argentine coach, Hector "Bambino" Veira, was released from jail recently after having his six-year sentence for interfering with a minor halved on appeal . . . causing riots in jails all over the country alleging unequal treatment.

Veira is wanted by one of his former Argentine clubs, San Lorenzo, to take over as coach immediately, but he says he is in no hurry. During his time in prison, rumour had it that San Lorenzo officials went to consult him on players and tactics.

● **JOSE BASUALDO**, Argentina's World Cup midfielder, is now playing for Velez Sarsfield in the Argentine national championship. Basualdo, who went to Stuttgart after the last World Cup, played on loan with Argentina's Racing Club last season, but Stuttgart did not want to renew the loan agreement and preferred to sell him to Velez Sarsfield for 470,000 dollars.

● **SERGIO BATISTA**, the Argentine World Cup midfielder, who retired shortly after the 1990 finals in Italy, is attempting a comeback with Nueva Chicago in the National B Division.

● **MARIO KEMPES**, Argentina's 1978 World Cup star, returned from playing in Austria hoping to sign for his first club, Rosario Central.

It didn't work out and he decided to retire at 38. But a few days after his announcement he was still thinking of soccer — playing in Japan, or coaching.

ECUADOR

Ecuador will stay as Copa host

DOUBTS are increasing about Ecuador's ability to stage next year's South American Championship of nations, the Copa America, mainly because the grounds are too small and some of the venues do not have the required facilities.

Carlos Coello, president of the Ecuadorian FA, has jumped to his country's defence, saying: "Some of the stadiums proposed do not have the 30,000 capacity stipulated by CONMEBOL, but this has never been a problem, nor has it been complied with in previous tournaments, for example last year in Chile. If CONMEBOL insist on this point and we can't remedy the problem we will play only at the venues where capacity is big enough."

CONMEBOL sources confirmed that the stadium capacity was not a problem, but security and communications could determine that some of the venues may not be accepted. There was no question of the championship being moved.

A Brazilian firm, Traffice, bought the TV rights and want all matches to be played in Quito and Guayaquil which, they say, are the only places from which transmission is possible. The proposed venues are Atahualpa in Quito (45,000 spectators), Monumental (55,000) and Modelo (45,000) in Guayaquil, Cuenca (25,000), Ibarra (15,000), Ambato (18,000) and Machala (18,000).

● THREE clubs from Quito (Nacional, Liga Deportiva Universitaria and Deportivo Quito), two from Guayaquil (Emelec and Barcelona) and Green Cross from Manta, one of the surprises of the season, are playing in the final round for Ecuador's First Division title.

PERU

Alianza players fear attacks

WHEN Peru leaders Universitario beat Alianza Lima 2-0 in the Lima derby — with two goals by Chilean Juan Carlos Letelier — 3,000 police were on duty to keep order and avoid possible terrorist activity.

Players of Alianza, only now climbing the table, earlier had refused to play in their own stadium, saying there was not enough security to avoid increasing attacks by fans.

Universitario topped the table by three points from Sporting Cristal, the defending champions, with eight games to go.

The Peruvian FA engaged Yugoslav coach Vladimir Popovic of Red Star Belgrade to prepare their national team for next year's South American Championship and World Cup qualifiers. He has a one-year contract, extendable if Peru qualify.

Teofilo Salinas, a Peruvian who was president of CONMEBOL for many years, says Peru needs someone who knows more about local soccer.

Salinas also says that FIFA took the unprecedented step of urging a solution in the Maradona conflict because they want Argentina, with Maradona, in the 1994 World Cup finals for financial reasons.

ERIC **WEIL**

BOCA STRUGGLING BACK TO THE TOP

RIVER PLATE beat Independiente 3-0 with a superlative performance in the National "A" Division's opening round, to start comparisons with the club's great teams of old.

Newspapers and magazines were full of their wonderful attacking trio of Ramon Diaz, Ramon Medina Bello and Ruben "Polillita" Da Silva . . . but it did not last.

Three 0-0 draws followed, with River Plate, though on top, playing worse each time. Their eternal rivals, Boca Juniors, were the unbeaten two-point leaders after seven games, although they had yet to put up a really good performance.

Boca may soon be the first club in South America to have a covered stadium. Talks are well advanced to put a sliding roof over their Bonbonera ground, with the help of a TV channel.

The leading scorer, San Lorenzo's Alberto Acosta (seven goals), is wanted by Diego Maradona to play alongside him with his new club, Sevilla.

Attendances continue to increase after years of spiralling downwards.

The players are worried by increasing violence on the field (which is blamed on the increasing pressure, bonuses for points, and some coaches) and the increasing number of foreigners in teams.

The union are asking for a limit on foreigners — as exists in most other countries — after this season's record influx of 47 (mostly from neighbouring Uruguay and Paraguay).

Deportivo Mandiyu have no less than 12 on their books.

Not so rosy . . . River Plate (white shorts) lost 1-0 at home to Rosario Central. Left to right: Ubeda, Caceres, Toresani and Palma.

URUGUAY

NACIONAL continued where they left off following the mid-season break, and topped the First Division by three points with a game in hand over Danubio.

Panamanian Julio Dely Valdez and Argentine Antonio Vidal Gonzalez top the scoring table with nine and eight goals respectively.

Uruguay's other big club, Penarol, continue in fourth place, seven points from the top, and their players frequently leave the field to whistles and boos from their own fans, then have to have police custody.

Racing Club, third, had 11 draws in 15 games and an 11-9 goals record.

CHILE

COLO COLO had a one-point lead over Santiago rivals Universidad Catolica at the half-way stage and were on their way to winning their fourth successive title.

They engaged Roberto Rojas, the former Chilean international suspended for life by FIFA, as their goalkeeper coach for juniors. Rojas, involved in the Chilean "walk-off" against Brazil in a 1990 World Cup qualifier, had fallen on hard times financially.

Another Colo Colo player, Patricio Yanez, 31, who retired earlier this year due to family and injury problems, had signed on again.

ERIC **WEIL**

BOLIVIA

LOWLY Universitario of Potosi's goalkeeper, Miguel Garizu, claimed that two players of leaders San Jose had offered him 1,000 dollars to help their team win.

So, according to Bolivian law, the two players — Carlos Arias and William Troncoso — were immediately detained by police.

This meant they could not play in the match, a 0-0 draw, with San Jose naturally weakened by the absence of two of their key men.

The Bolivian FA are investigating and if bribery is proved, San Jose could have their affiliation suspended for a year.

Champions Bolivar, trailing San Jose by a point, signed a Russian coach, Vitaly Schevchenko, for two years.

PARAGUAY

OLIMPIA, unbeaten in winning the first round of the Paraguayan First Division, lost their record in their 13th game by 1-0 to Nacional.

They managed to win twice more with their reserve team (while resting first-team players for the CONMEBOL Cup's final stages) and were joint second-round leaders with Cerro Porteno after five games.

● **RAUL AMARILLA,** Olimpia's 33-year-old striker, wanted to retire at the end of last season, but officials of the Paraguayan club convinced him to carry on for another season. Now Amarilla, who made his debut in 1977, says he will definitely finish this year. He never played for Paraguay because in 1981 he took out Spanish nationality to play for Spain's junior selection.

Libertadores latest

ONLY six clubs, including automatic qualifiers Sao Paulo as 1992 champions, have so far clinched places in next year's Libertadores Cup.

First-round groups will bring together the following clubs, two per country, to play home and away, with the top three advancing to the second round:

Group 1: Peru and Venezuela (Caracas FC, Minerven)
Group 2: Bolivia, Chile
Group 3: Ecuador and Uruguay
Group 4: Brazil (Flamengo) and Colombia
Group 5: Argentina (River Plate, Newell's Old Boys) and Paraguay.

Group play is scheduled to finish on March 24, with the knock-out second round scheduled for April 7 and 14 (with Sao Paulo joining in), the third round for April 21 and 28, semi-finals for May 5 and 12, and final for May 19 and 26.

MEXICO

Good start turns sour for Sanchez

HUGO SANCHEZ who returned from Spain to play for America of Mexico, started well — but then it all went sour.

He was sent off twice as his club slumped to three consecutive defeats, and the national team's coach, Cesar Luis Menotti, is unlikely to send for Sanchez in future. "He's not physically fit and seems to have lost his eye for goals," said Menotti.

Sanchez left Real Madrid for America, who also spent 700,000 dollars — the biggest fee of the close season — on Argentine international Germany Martellotto of Monterrey.

The bad run, including a 1-0 defeat by eternal rivals Guadalajara, could be a threat to Brazilian coach Falcao's future.

Newly-promoted Pachuca did not concede a goal in their first four games but lost the next two, and Necaxa moved to the top by one point.

Last season's inauguration of a CONCACAF club tournament for Cup-winners' has prompted other countries to start Cup competitions, which have never had the same popularity in America as in Europe.

Guatemala and Honduras held knockouts before the First Division started this season, but in both cases the first round was played in groups for points, with the winners going on to the elimination stage.

The Copa Guatemala was won by Deportivo Suchitepequez who defeated Deportivo Escuintla 2-1 in the final. Aurora took third place by beating Tipografia Nacional 6-3 in the match between semi-final losers.

ERIC **WEIL**

● **The first edition of the Honduras Cup was won 4-2 on aggregate by Real Espana, who beat Victoria in the two-leg final.**

PITY THE POOR LINESMAN!

AMERICANO of Campos are hardly one of Brazil's most illustrious clubs. A visit to their decrepit, dimly-lit stadium, with a pitch that resembles a motocross circuit, is one of the most dreaded fixtures for Rio de Janeiro's big four.

Vasco da Gama, Flamengo, Fluminense and Botafogo would willingly exchange an evening watching a soap opera, listening to Sertanejo music or other such torture for a visit to the Godfredo Cruz stadium.

The Americano team, who never have won and probably never will win anything of note, are nothing to worry about.

The problem is the atmosphere at the stadium, where linesmen are given nil protection against objects thrown from the stands, Americano directors run on to the pitch to pressurise the referee, and the pitch is rated as one of the worst in Brazil — quite an achievement.

Last year, Flamengo midfielder Junior was injured when he put a foot in one of the Americano pitch's numerous holes. He claimed that like many other small clubs Americano deliberately fail to look after the pitch in an attempt to bring the big teams down to their level.

Nobody from any of the small clubs came forward to deny the allegation.

Fluminense recently had first-hand experience of the troubles visiting sides face.

Halfway during the second half, play was held up for five minutes as a furious Americano director ran to shout and swear and abuse the referee.

One minute from the end, the entire Americano team attacked the linesman after he disallowed what would have been an equaliser. The players pushed, shoved and were heard swearing at the official, yet only one was sent off.

In the one minute of play that remained, an incredible assortment of objects rained down on the linesman as the police stood and watched.

In most places Americano would be fined and eventually kicked out. Not in Rio de Janeiro. Far from it. The linesman was later suspended indefinitely . . . Americano were not fined even half a cruzeiro.

Coincidence or not, the president of the Rio de Janeiro Federation — Eduardo Viana — is known for being a devout Americano supporter.

Vasco da Gama led the first stage of the Rio de Janeiro championship. They went through their first eight games without conceding a goal, while at the other end, Roberto, who played in the 1978 World Cup, was still knocking them in at 38.

Flamengo proved that their Brazilian championship win was a pure fluke when they lost to Botafogo and then to Bangu.

The winners of the first and second stages and the team with the most points over the two combined go through to the final stage.

Corinthians led Sao Paulo on goal difference in the green group of the State League, from which the top six go through to the semi-final stage.

Tele Santana strengthened his Sao Paulo team by signing Toninho Cerezo on a 15-month loan from Sampdoria. Cerezo, now 37, owns his own contract, and picks up $150,000 on the deal.

Palmeiras, whose attempt to buy Diego Maradona ended in failure, were in danger of not making the top six after a miserable eight goals in 13 games. They have gone 16 years without a title, and the pressure increases with every game.

The weaker yellow group, in reality a Second Division except that the top two go through to the semi-finals, was led by Ponte Preta, with Rio Branco a point behind.

BRIAN **HOMEWOOD**

In the money . . . Cerezo owns his own contract.

South American Youth Championship

Brazil keep youth title

BRAZIL retained the South American Youth Championship, held in the Colombian city of Medellin. Uruguay finished second, with Colombia third.

The top three qualified for the World tournament in Australia next year.

The Brazilians were easily the most impressive side, with two of the tournament's best players, Mauricio and Adriano — the latter building on last year's World under-17 Championship and now apparently Italy-bound.

The general standard, however, was a big disappointment to the relatively small crowds (an average of 10,000) and to the European scouts who had made the journey.

Appropriately the media voted for a goalkeeper as the tournament's best player, Colombia's Daniel Velez finishing ahead of Uruguay's Armando Correa, the top scorer with five goals, Adriano and Peru's Paolo Maldonado. Of course the media was mainly Colombian.

There were only 31 goals in 18 games, with four goalless draws and five 1-0 victories.

With the absence of Argentina, banned by FIFA after their behaviour during last year's World tournament, the top three confirmed their status as favourites.

Brazil rattled through their six games without conceding a goal.

Uruguay, as strong and tactically disciplined as ever, conceded two while Colombia also conceded two and go to Australia despite failing to score in the final pool. Ecuador finished fourth, and Peru took the fair play award.

The media selected the following "All-star" team: Daniel Velez (Colombia), Gerson Gonzalez (Colombia), Ivan Hurtado (Uruguay), Gelson (Brazil), Freddy Ferragut (Chile), Sergio Sena (Uruguay), Marcelinho (Brazil), Adriano (Brazil), Paolo Maldonado (Peru), Armando Correa (Uruguay), Mauricio (Brazil).

KEITH **SMITH**

Group A

Colombia	3	Peru	1
Uruguay	1	Chile	0
Uruguay	3	Peru	1
Colombia	1	Chile	0
Chile	2	Peru	0
Colombia	0	Uruguay	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colombia	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
Uruguay	3	2	1	0	4	1	5
Chile	3	1	0	2	2	2	2
Peru	3	0	0	23	2	8	0

Group B

Paraguay	1	Ecuador	1
Brazil	1	Bolivia	0
Paraguay	2	Bolivia	0
Brazil	2	Ecuador	0
Ecuador	3	Bolivia	1
Brazil	1	Paraguay	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	4	0	6
Ecuador	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
Paraguay	3	1	1	1	3	2	3
Bolivia	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

Final Pool

Colombia	0	Ecuador	0
Brazil	0	Uruguay	0
Brazil	2	Ecuador	0
Colombia	0	Uruguay	0
Colombia	0	Brazil	1
Uruguay	3	Ecuador	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BRAZIL	3	2	1	0	3	0	5
Uruguay	3	1	2	0	3	1	4
Colombia	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Ecuador	3	0	1	2	0	5	0

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★★★

ERIC WEIL looks at the No.1 Argentine team

RIVER PLATE

In charge . . . Daniel Passarella.

South American style . . . Basualdo of River Plate takes on Gamboa of Newell's Old Boys.

Back towards the top

Passarella needs more of that 'Machine' method

STATISTICALLY, Club Atletico River Plate are the leading soccer club in Argentina, having won 18 First (now National A) Division titles since the start of professional soccer in 1931 . . . and they were again the leading team last season.

We add this because the ever-changing format of the Argentine championship ended with the fiasco of having no official champion for 1991-92. The national championship was played in two rounds, with both producing a champion — River Plate and Newell's Old Boys. True, they then played a three-match series for a Libertadores Cup place, and this was won by River Plate by five points to one.

River Plate also topped the table adding up points of both championships by five points, so taking into account each season's best team since 1931, the winners are: 19 — River Plate; 12 — Boca Juniors; 9 — Independiente; 6 — Racing Club (Avellaneda); 5 — San Lorenzo; 3 — Newell's Old Boys; 2 — Estudiantes ; 1 — Chacarita Juniors, Huracan, Quilmes, Argentinos Juniors, Rosario Central.

River Plate have never been out of the professional First Division and are easily the leading overall points winners, but had won only one (amateur) championship, in 1920.

The club became great once professionalism was legalised, by being the first to enter the transfer market. They were founded on May 25 (an Argentine national holiday) 1901, from a fusion of two teams of students, La Rosales and Santa Rosa, in the Boca district of Buenos Aires, and took their name from the river on whose banks the team played their early matches.

With little money, the students decided that their team shirts should be the cheapest available, which were white, but as many other teams also played in white they decided to sew on a red, diagonal band — and this continues to be their style today.

In the early days the team moved from ground to ground in the area, but far-sighted officials took them away from the Boca — the home of Boca Juniors, still their closest rivals — in 1923, and finally to their present 80,000-capacity Monumental stadium.

There is a complete sports complex there, and Monumental was the main stadium for the 1978 World Cup.

In 1931 River Plate were the first Argentine club to put a player under contract — Carlos Peucelle, who had played for Argentina in the first World Cup the year before — for 10,000 pesos, the price of two houses in those days.

But they really set the local football community alight the following year when they bought five players and won their first pro title. One newcomer, Bernabe Ferreyra, cost the then fortune of 35,000 pesos and brought the club the nickname "Millonarios" which has stuck ever since . . . even though recently they were on the verge of bankruptcy and are only now recovering slightly.

Among River Plate's many famous teams those of the 30s, 40s and 50s stand out, especially the one fondly called "La Maquina" — the machine. The name is commonly given to that outstanding forward line of Munoz-Moreno-Pedernera-Labruna-Loustau — not quite correct because the five-man line changed during those years.

Peucelle played for several seasons before becoming manager-coach, and Alfredo Di Stefano lined up in the attack in 1947, before he conquered Europe.

Apart from that, "La Maquina" was really a style

Ready for action . . . River Plate players await the kick-off.

FACT BOX

Club Atletico River Plate

Founded: May 25, 1901.

Colours: White shirts with diagonal red band, black shorts.

Stadium: Monumental, Avenida Figeroa Alcorta 7567, Buenos Aires.

Capacity: 80,000 (43,000 seats, 37,000 standing room).

President: Alfredo Davicce.

Team manager: Daniel Passarella.

Honours

Argentina First Division: 1932,1936, 1937, 1941, 1942, 1945, 1947, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1975,1977, 1979, 1980, 1985-6, 1989-90. 1991-2.

National championships ***(played in same years as First Division):*** 1975, 1979.

Libertadores Cup: 1986.

Inter-American Cup: 1987.

Intercontinental Cup: 1986.

Past and present . . . Labruna (left) won nine Argentine titles. Medina Bello (above with Llop of Newell's Old Boys) is a top player, but is very unlikely to match that record.

of play — the ball-playing hallmark of South American soccer — which brought River Plate 11 First Division titles in these 20-odd years. Peucelle, who died two years ago, was its inventor.

Most of the players, who learnt to play the game on the streets, were ball artists before they even got into the first team (after going through the club's junior teams) and by then they had got so used to playing with the same colleagues that they did it "by memory", using different tones of whistling to let each other know where they were and what they were doing.

Sadly, with no TV and few films and tours in those days, many people never saw them play, and there are few film records today.

River Plate's last title came in 1957, and in the following year Argentina put up a poor show in Sweden when they returned to the World Cup after an absence of 24 years.

After that all clubs tried to copy European styles completely — a sad mistake — and River Plate did not win another title for 18 years. Europe's game was not their kind of game. A former player and member of "La Maquina", Angel Labruna — who retired after winning nine titles, playing 521 games and scoring 292 goals — eventually changed their style, as coach, and took them to their next title in 1975, to be followed by more honours; four First Division and two National.

River Plate seem to have the strongest playing squad on paper year after year, but poor management, bad buying and selling of players and internal politics, combined with the poor economic situation of the country, left the club heavily in debt (up to 17 million dollars a short time ago). They could no longer afford to buy top players. The membership of this all-sports club — which had passed the 80,000 mark in the 50s — had dropped to close on 20,000.

Now they are slowly getting out of this mess, and are again able to sign a few players.

But it is significant that most of the club's soccer successes have come when their own former players managed the team — even when they had little coaching experience.

This was the case when Reinaldo Merlo and Norberto Alonso, both former leading

Whistle . . . and a goal was likely

midfielders, took charge jointly in 1989. They left at the end of that year when the committee changed, but by then the team were on their way to the championship.

Another recently-retired player, Daniel Passarella — captain of River Plate and the national team, with 71 caps — took over and led the team to the 1989-90 title. Ironically he sat his final exam to get his coaching certificate three days after winning the title. His assistant was another former player, midfielder Americo Gallego, who retired when holding the record of 77 international caps.

This duo continue in charge and although not being able to claim the official 1991-92 title — only that of the "opening championship" — they can look forward to playing in the Libertadores Cup next year.

This will be River Plate's 15th attempt in the prestigious tournament to decide South America's club champions, but they have won only once — in 1986. This team, coached by a former club midfielder, Hector "Bambino" Veira, went on to win the annual Intercontinental Cup in Tokyo that year.

River Plate often supplied the majority of players to the national team. There were seven internationals in last season's club side — defenders Fabian Basualdo (15 caps) and Carlos Enrique (9), midfielders Leonardo Astrada (14), Gustavo Zapata (3) and Sergio Berti (3) and forwards Ramon Diaz (23) and Ramon Medina Bello (4).

River Plate are one of the few teams always trying to play attacking soccer, which has often left them exposed at the back due to poor marking. Never more so than against Newell's Old Boys earlier this year, when River Plate lost 5-0 at home for the first time ever. But Passarella is working on the weak spots.

Goalkeeper Angel Comizzo gave the defence a lot of confidence last season, conceding only 21 goals in 30 games, and strikers Diaz and Medina Bello added punch.

This season's most important addition is the return of Uruguayan Ruben "Polillita" Da Silva, who played in the title-winning team of 1989-90 before leaving to play in Europe.

He immediately worked up a good understanding with Diaz and has stood out so far this season — as he did before he left — so that things are again looking good for the team.

LEADING PLAYERS

Angel COMIZZO, 30 (born April 27, 1962). Safe goalkeeper who has instilled a lot of confidence since his return from Mexican club Talleres last season. Passarella says he is one of the main reasons for turning the team into a title winner.

Fabian BASUALDO, 28 (born February 26, 1964). Invaluable defender and a national team regular with 15 caps in the centre of the defence.

Fernando CACERES, 23 (born February 7, 1969). One of the youngest and most recent imports from Argentinos Juniors and a rarity among central defenders — clean and technical. Still improving.

Jorge HIGUAIN, 25 (born January 27, 1957). Captain last season and an agile defender, but does not fit in with Passarella's plans.

Leonardo ASTRADA, 22 (born January 6, 1970). Excellent at breaking up play and winning the ball. A regular international, with 14 caps.

Hernan DIAZ, 27 (born February 26, 1965). Good at recovering the ball and starting attacks, with an eye for goal.

Gustavo ZAPATA, 25 (born October 15, 1967). With the same qualities as Astrada. Three caps.

Ramon DIAZ, 33 (born August 29, 1959). Improved the play of the whole team when returning from Monaco last season, scoring 21 goals in 30 gamesa. Has 23 caps, but not currently in the national team.

Ramon MEDINA BELLO, 26 (born April 29, 1966). Dangerous attacker who has worked up a good understanding with Diaz.

diary

World Soccer's news service conducted by **KEIR RADNEDGE**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

GERMANY: *Bayern Munich say Lothar Matthaus, out of action since a knee injury in May and since then sold home by Internazionale, could make his return in the weekend game against Wattenscheid.*

SPAIN: *Diego Maradona trains with Sevilla youth players as a further meeting to discuss his transfer, between representatives of Sevilla, Napoli and FIFA, is postponed from Tuesday until Thursday.*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

ACTION: *Werder Bremen lead the early starters in the European club first round ties. The holders of the Cup-winners' Cup beat their fellow Germans Hannover 3-1.*

GERMANY: *Bayern Munich coach Erich Ribbeck confirms that Lothar Matthaus will make his "new" debut on Saturday against Wattenscheid.*

SPAIN: *Diego Maradona trains with Sevilla's youth teams while awaiting the outcome of further negotiations with Napoli. The Italian club fly to Spain to play Valencia in the UEFA Cup but officials insist the Maradona issue is being put on ice until after the Wednesday night match.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

ACTION: *A full day's action in the three European club competitions. Individual hero is Napoli's Uruguayan, Daniel Fonseca, who scores five goals in the Italians' 5-1 win away to Spain's Valencia in the UEFA Cup. Champions' Cup holders Barcelona scrape only a 1-0 win home against Viking Stavanger of Norway.*

BRAZIL: *Manager Carlos Alberto Parreira includes six players from South American champions Sao Paulo in the 21-strong squad to face Costa Rica in a friendly.*

PORTUGAL: *Benfica's Brazilian centre back Carlos Mozer undergoes knee surgery and will miss most of the rest of the year.*

SPAIN: *Sevilla formally offer Napoli £2.5million for Maradona.*

UKRAINE: *Anatoly Konkov is appointed national manager with former Kiev team-mate Vladimir Muntyan as Olympic team boss.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

HUNGARY: *Ferencvaros make an official protest about alleged hooligan behaviour by Slovak police against Hungarian fans during Wednesday's Champions' Cup-tie against Slovan in Bratislava.*

SPAIN: *Maradona runs out of patience. He says: "I'm going home to retire. Nothing has come of Sevilla's bid. Ferlaino (Napoli's prsident) has won. He's beaten both football and Maradona" . . . national manager Javier Clemente names, for the World Cup-tie against Latvia, the squad which beat England — minus Guardiola, Nando and Fernando.*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

ENGLAND: *Aston Villa claim Bari owe them a chunk of the profit made when David Platt was sold to Juventus.*

FRANCE: *Marseille re-enter the Maradona saga, offering Napoli £5million for the 31-year-old Argentine.*

ITALY: *Ruud Gullit pulls out of the Holland squad due to face Norway in midweek in a World Cup qualifier.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA chief executive Sepp Blatter announces, at a refereeing seminar, that for all international competitions television film can be used by disciplinary bodies, even when an offence is hidden from the referee. He also approves the use of referees from other continents for regional World Cup qualifiers. Thus Italy's Pairetto will referee Tunisia v Benin and Mexico's Brizio Carter will referee England v Norway. He will be the first non-European referee to control a World Cup qualifier in Europe.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

ACTION: *Fiji and New Zealand draw 0-0 in the World Cup Oceania qualifiers . . . Barcelona win 4-1 away to Atletico Madrid in Spain, with Bulgarian striker Stoichkov scoring a hat-trick. Later in the match Stoichkov and Atletico's Paulo Futre are sent off . . . Lothar Matthaus makes his "new debut" for German league leaders Bayern Munich in a 1-1 draw against Wattenscheid.*

FRANCE: *Now Marseille offer Napoli £2million for French European Championship sweeper Laurent Blanc.*

ITALY: *Sampdoria sell retirement bound Toninho Cerezo to South American champions Sao Paulo for just £10,000.*

SPAIN: *Maradona decides to delay his flight home until after Monday's meeting in Switzerland between representatives of Sevilla and Napoli and the Spanish and Italian federations.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

ACTION: *Australia beat Tahiti 2-0 in the World Cup . . . Brian Laudrup scores twice as Fiorentina thrash promoted Ancona 7-1 in Italy . . . Real Madrid are held goalless by Gijon in Spain . . . FK Austria win 2-1 away to former champions Innsbruck in Austria . . . Polish champions Lech Poznan are held goalless at home by LKS Lodz but remain one point clear of Widzew Lodz at the top of the table.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA fine both Slovan Bratislava and Ferencvaros £6,000 after crowd trouble at their Champions' Cup first round first leg in the Slovak capital.*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

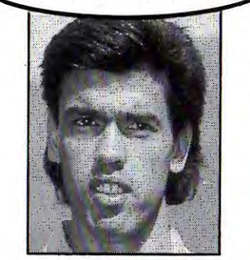
SWITZERLAND: *Maradona's lawyer, Marcos Franchi, says in Zurich that a transfer agreement is imminent after a FIFA-sponsored meeting between Sevilla president Luis Cuervas, Spanish federation president Angel Villar and Italian federation vice-president Michele Pierro.*

UNITED STATES: *The 1994 World Cup organisers announce a packet of anti-hooligan measures, including screening fans before they arrive, possible stadium segregation and rapid-response police teams. Edgar Best, security chief at the 1984 Olympics, is appointed senior vice-president with responsibility for security.*

DID YOU KNOW ?

. . . many American experts consider 1930s star **Bill Gonsalves** to have been the country's best-ever player.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH:



Daniel Fonseca . . .
for the five goals he scored for Napoli away to Valencia in the UEFA Cup.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

ACTION: *In the European under-21s, Poland beat Turkey 3-0 and Norway beat Holland 1-0.*

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: *Slovak police authorities defend the action taken by riot squad commandos at the Champions' Cup-tie against Ferencvaros — as the Hungarian champions threaten to appeal against UEFA's imposition of a fine for the bad behaviour of their fans.*

ENGLAND: *The High Court drives a coach and horses through UEFA's Article 14 of its statutes, which permits federation to control TV soccer being transmitted in from abroad. The High Court rejects a veto sought by the FAs of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland against Sky Sports' plans to show Paul Gascoigne's comeback match (a Lazio v Tottenham friendly tomorrow) live despite 18 Coca-Cola League Cup ties.*

GERMANY: *Hamburg sack coach Egon Coordes after just six months. Assistant Benno Mohlmann takes over . . . Koln directors give Jorg Berger one more week to produce signs of a recovery for the bottom club.*

POLAND: *Polish players form their own union. A previous attempt to unionise was crushed by the former Communist regime in 1980.*

SWITZERLAND: *The Diego Maradona comeback transfer is resolved. At talks in Zurich at FIFA-Haus, Sevilla agree to pay Napoli £4million. Maradona sheds tears of delight when he is told the news, though FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter warns that he must be on his best behaviour, both on and off the pitch, from now on.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

ACTION: *Upsets in the World Cup qualifiers, with Norway beating Holland 2-1 and Latvia and Lithuania holding both Spain and Denmark to goalless draws. Poland scrape a 1-0 win over Turkey but Czechoslovakia run up four against the Faroes . . . in friendlies Hungary draw 0-0 with Israel and the Italian national team win 2-0 away to FC Zurich . . . in Africa, Tunisia are held 1-1 by Algeria . . . in South America Brazil beat Costa Rica 4-2 and Uruguay and Argentina draw 0-0 . . . Atletico Mineiro win the CONMEBOL Cup, losing 1-0 to Olimpia of Paraguay in the second leg of the final but triumphing 2-1 overall.*

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: *Slovan Bratislava cancel fans' plans for a Champions' Cup-winning visit to Ferencvaros of Hungary for fear of retaliatory violence after trouble at the first leg in the Slovak capital.*

FRANCE: *Toulouse coach Victor Zvunka quits after 15 of the 16-strong first-team squad back a proposal for a vote of confidence. Angry club president Andre Labatut says: "I wish the players had shown this amount of guts out on the pitch."*

GERMANY: *Benno Mohlmann is confirmed as new boss of Hamburg.*

ITALY: *Fit-again Paul Gascoigne scores the first goal as Lazio beat his old club, Tottenham, in a friendly in Rome.*

SPAIN: *Sevilla say Diego Maradona will make his debut in a friendly against Bayern Munich next Monday.*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

BELGIUM: *Mechelen are sued by former coach Ruud Krol for £2.5million following his dismissal as coach in 1990.*

FRANCE: *Marseille struggle to a 2-2 draw away to Lens . . . France sweepr Laurent Blanc joins Nimes on loan from Napoli.*

GERMANY: *Second Division St Pauli, following the example earlier this week of neighbours Hamburg, dismiss their coach as a result of player agitation. Michael Lorkowski is succeeded by his former assistant.*

HUNGARY: *Newspapers reveal that a Hungarian fan of Ferencvaros died in fighting with riot police at the Champions' Cup tie against Slovan in Bratislava. His identity had been kept secret until after the funeral.*

SPAIN: *Diego Maradona comes through his first official training session with Sevilla with flying colours.*

SWITZERLAND: *More African nations pull out of the World Cup qualifiers on financial grounds — Uganda, Mauritania and Sudan. FIFA postpones Libya's qualifying matches indefinitely because of the UN ban on air links.*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

ACTION: *Vanuatu lose 3-0 at home to Fiji in an Oceania World Cup qualifier.*

ALGERIA: *Jeunesse Sportive de Kabylie sell national captain Moussa Saib to Auxerre of France. Though only 23, he already possesses winner's medals in the African Nations' Cup and the African Champions' Cup.*

FRANCE: *Paris Saint-Germain are held 2-2 away to bottom club Toulouse but remain one point clear of Auxerre and Nantes at the top of the table.*

GERMANY: *Bayern Munich win 2-1 away to Dortmund thanks to goals from Helmer (signed from Dortmund in the summer) and Kreuzer.*

SPAIN: *Sevilla report increasing season-ticket sales by a third to 40,000 in the wake of the purchase of Maradona. His league debut is set for October 7 against Zaragoza.*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

ACTION: *Australia secure top place in Oceania group one of the World Cup qualifiers by defeating Solomon Islands 6-1 . . . Danish leaders OB are held 0-0 at home by champions Lyngby . . . Bayer Leverkusen underline their challenge to German leaders Bayern Munich by thrashing Schalke 6-1 . . . Romario scores a hat-trick in PSV Eindhoven's 5-1 defeat of Maastricht . . . Sporting Lisbon fail to win again away, this time held 0-0 at Farense . . . surprise Spanish leaders La Coruna win 2-0 away to Real Sociedad; Real Madrid coach Benito Floro sees his new club beat his old team, Albacete, by 3-0.*

CYPRUS: *Violence erupts at the end of the league match between Omonia and Apollon when referee Stephanos Hadjistefanou is attacked by Omonia fans for awarding Apollon a last-minute penalty. Hadjistefanou is taken to hospital where he is expected to be kept under observation for two days.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

ACTION: *River Plate win 2-0 away to Huracan to move within one point of Argentine league leaders Boca Juniors . . . Belgian leaders Anderlecht suffer a shock 5-2 home defeat by Waregem . . . Feyenoord slip in Holland after being held 2-2 by neighbours Sparta . . . Paul Gascoigne injures his right knee and plays only the first half in Lazio's 1-1 home draw against Genoa . . . Barcelona beat Burgos 4-1 to stay second in Spain; Hristo Stoichkov scores his fifth goal of the season.*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

GERMANY: *German manager Berti Vogts learns from Rudi Voller that the Marseille centre forward intends retiring from the national team after the friendly against Mexico in Dresden on October 14.*

SPAIN: *Diego Maradona, though still overweight, turns on all his brilliance as he makes his debut for Sevilla in a 3-1 win over Bayern Munich.*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

ACTION: *Second leg night in the first round of the European club competitions. Liverpool have Paul Stewart sent off in Cyprus against Apollon in the Cup-winners' Cup; Anderlecht narrowly squeeze past Hibernian in the UEFA Cup but Manchester United lose on penalties to Torpedo Moscow despite gaining a 2-0 lead early in the shoot-out.*

TEAM OF THE MONTH:

La Coruna . . .
for shocking the Spanish establishment and taking the league leadership with victories over Real Madrid and Barcelona.

SWEDEN: *Mechelen striker Kennet Andersson is recalled for the World Cup tie against Bulgaria. Goalkeeper Ravelli, centre back Janne Eriksson and striker Tomas Brolin are all out injured . . . 28 Swedish fans are escorted on to the ferries home by Danish police after being arrested for causing trouble before, during and after the Cup-winners' Cup tie against Aarhus in Denmark.*

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

ACTION: *The first round of the European club matches is just about completed. Barcelona are embarrassed by Norway's Viking in their opening Champions' Cup defence but sneak through 1-0 on aggregate, Werder Bremen hold off their fellow Germans from Hannover to maintain their grip on the Cup-winners' Cup and Ajax complete a simple 6-1 overall victory over Salzburg in their UEFA Cup defence. Eintracht Frankfurt are the day's top scorers, putting nine goals past Widzew Lodz.*

BELGIUM: *Police report one Scottish fan as stabbed and another 32 arrested after trouble in Brussels before Tuesday's UEFA Cup tie between Anderlecht and Hibernian.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

GERMANY: *It emerges that Stuttgart used one foreigner too many to secure their away goals victory over Leeds. Dubajic, Sverisson, Knup and Simanic were not only on the team sheet for the second leg at Elland Road in the Champions' Cup — which was wrong in the first place — but coach Christoph Daum used them all in the decisive last ten minutes of the match. Leeds demand reinstatement in the Champions' Cup; Stuttgart president Gerhardt Mayer-Vorfelder admits a "mistake which could cost us millions" as the German club throw themselves on UEFA's mercy. UEFA officials fly down to Geneva — where the second round draw is due on Friday morning — from Hermann Neuberger's funeral in Germany and say a disciplinary meeting will be held before the draw. Later they decide the disciplinary meeting will be delayed until Saturday in Zurich.*

GREECE: *The second leg of the UEFA Cup tie in Greece between PAOK and Paris Saint-Germain is abandoned at the start of the second half with angry Greek fans trying to storm the pitch.*

ITALY: *Milan skipper Franco Baresi rocks Calcio by announcing his retirement from the national team.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

SWITZERLAND: *Chaos in Geneva with Leeds or Stuttgart being drawn against Rangers in the second round. Rangers are upset that UEFA delayed the decision, Leeds are upset that nobody can tell them what's happening and Dinamo Bucharest are unhappy that unseeded Leeds have usurped what might have been their place among the seeds. Instead of an "easy" tie, Dinamo have been drawn against Marseille. Stuttgart launch a protest of their own, against Leeds' use of Gary Speed as an assimilated player.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

ACTION: *Marseille beat Monaco 1-0 in France . . . in Germany Borussia Monchengladbach goalkeeper Dirk Heyne joins the attack in the last moment and sets up the goal which earns a 2-2 draw against Bayern Munich . . . surprise Spanish leaders La Coruna hit back from 2-0 down in 25 minutes to defeat Real Madrid 3-2.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA's disciplinary commission award the disputed Champions' Cup second leg at Elland Road to Leeds on a 3-0 forfeit. This conveniently squares the aggregate so UEFA goes on to order a replay. Paris, Zurich and Copenhagen are all considered as possible venues with the likely date being Saturday week when most European league programmes are suspended to help national teams preparing for the following week's World Cup qualifiers.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

ACTION: *Stuttgart's worst week continues with a 4-0 German League defeat by Eintracht Frankfurt . . . George Weah scores twice as Paris Saint-Germain maintain their leadership in France with a 5-1 victory over Metz . . . Dennis Bergkamp scores a hat-trick in Holland as Ajax win 5-0 away to RKC . . . Ruud Gullit's first league appearance of the season inspires Milan to a sensational 7-3 win away to Fiorentina. Gullit, Massaro and Van Basten each score two goals . . . Diego Maradona creates a goal on his league debut but Sevilla still go down 2-1 in Bilbao.*

BULGARIA: *Federation officials are incensed when UEFA confirm that Hristo Stoichkov and Niki Iliev must miss Wednesday's World Cup qualifier because of suspension.*

FRANCE: *The committee responsible for assisting families of the victims of the Bastia stadium disaster relent on their insistence on a ban on stadium use after the Bastia club protest that playing every match away from Furiani is threatening bankruptcy.*

SWITZERLAND: *PAOK Salonika are banned from European competition for two seasons for the crowd trouble which halted Thursday's UEFA Cup tie against Paris Saint-Germain.*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

BELGIUM: *Standard Liege's uncapped forward Alain Bettagno is included in the World Cup squad to play Romania.*

DENMARK: *Flemming Povlsen, absent from Denmark's last match because his wife had just had a baby, is recalled for the World Cup qualifier against the Irish Republic.*

ENGLAND: *Leeds call on the FA to support their bid to stage the Champions' Cup replay against Stuttgart at Elland Road. Further problems loom as England, Scotland, Wales and France insist they will deny Leeds the club's World Cup players if the replay goes ahead on Saturday as originally scheduled.*

FRANCE: *France recall Eric Cantona for the World Cup tie against Austria.*

GERMANY: *Uncapped Ralf Weber and Axel Kruse of Eintracht Frankfurt and Heiko Scholz of Bayer Leverkusen are named in Germany's squad for the Dresden friendly against Mexico which will serve as Rudi Voller's national team farewell. Lothar Matthaus is back in the squad for the first time since before damaging a knee last April.*

HOLLAND: *Manager Dick Advocaat confirms that Gullit has withdrawn from the national team's World Cup qualifier against Norway for "personal reasons."*

GREECE: *PAOK disown their supporters groups in the wake of their club's two-year European suspension.*

ITALY: *Brazilian defender Julio Cesar is ruled out for four months after X-rays confirm he broke a leg in Juventus' 3-2 weekend win over Napoli.*

PORTUGAL: *Injury rules Rui Barros out of Portugal's squad for the World Cup visit to Scotland.*

SWITZERLAND: *Bologna striker Kubilay Turkyilmaz is recalled for the World Cup visit to Italy.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

ACTION: *Norway win 3-0 away to San Marino and Sweden thrash Bulgaria 6-0 in the European under-21s.*

BELGIUM: *Mechelen drop Kennet Andersson and transfer-list him saying his wage rates make him too expensive a member of the squad . . . Gent demand a replay of the weekend's 3-1 defeat by Anderlecht, claiming Peter Van Vossen scored Anderlecht's third goal after returning to the pitch without the referee's formal permission.*

JAPAN: *Pele signs a promotional contract with one of the Japanese World Cup 2002 promoters.*

SPAIN: *Real Madrid spring a transfer shock by buying back Spain midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez from Marseille — after the player makes his peace with club president Ramon Mendoza.*

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA resolve the Champions' Cup replay row by setting the match for Barcelona on Friday, when Scotland, France, Wales and England's national managers have confirmed they will release their players.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

ACTION: *World Cup victories fall to Norway, Greece and Sweden . . . Greece also beat Iceland 3-1 in the European under-21s.*

CANADA: *Vancouver 86ers join the American Professional Soccer League.*

DENMARK: *International midfielder Per Frimann sues Brondby for £100,000 back pay and signing-on fees — an action which could drive the club bankrupt.*

SPAIN: *Diego Maradona converts a penalty for his first goal for Sevilla in a 1-0 league victory over Zaragoza.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

SPAIN: *Real Madrid beat Valencia 2-0 in a match delayed a day for Spanish television.*

CONTINUED OVER

OBITUARY

HERMANN NEUBERGER . . . one of the three most powerful officials in the world game, dies in Homburg, Germany, aged 72, after a long illness. Neuberger was vice-president of FIFA, president of FIFA's World Cup organising committee and president of the German federation. A former sports journalist, Neuberger worked for the DFB for 40 years and was one of the founding fathers of the Bundesliga in the early 1960s. Before that he was president of the Saar federation, where he first worked in partnership with coach Helmut Schon, who later became West German national coach. Neuberger made the political leap from national football supremo to the world stage thanks to his work in organising the 1974 World Cup finals in West Germany. Tributes were paid by FIFA president Joao Havelange, general secretary Sepp Blatter and German federation treasurer Egidius Braun (Neuberger's likely successor as president of the DFB). Neuberger leaves a third wife, Irmgard, and four daughters.

LARBI BEN BAREK . . . one of Morocco's greatest players, dies aged 75, in Casablanca. Ben Barek moved to France with Marseille in 1938, returned to Morocco for the duration of the war then went back to France with Stade Francais and on to Spain with Atletico Madrid. Ben Barek played 17 times for France before retiring in 1953.

WILLIE WADDELL ***(right)*** **. . .** one of the great names in Scottish football, dies aged 71 after a heart attack. Waddell made his name as a winger with Rangers and played 17 times for Scotland. He managed Kilmarnock in the mid-1960s and succeeded Davie White as Rangers manager in 1969, leading the club to victory in the European Cup-winners' Cup in 1972. Later he became general manager.

CONTINUED

SWITZERLAND: *UEFA officials refute English media criticism that the European governing body had been influenced by German television money in its decision to award "only" a replay in the Leeds row.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

ACTION: *United States and Canada draw 0-0 in North Carolina . . . Alegeria beat Burundi 3-1 in an African World Cup qualifier . . . Leeds claim justice is done as they beat Stuttgart 2-1 in the Champions' Cup first round replay in Barcelona. Strachan and substitute Shutt score the goals, Shutt with virtually his first kick of the match after substituting for Cantona.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

ACTION: *In the World Cup African qualifiers, South Africa are thrashed 4-0 away by Nigeria and African champions Ivory Coast beat Botswana 6-0 . . . Second Division Osnabruck beat Borussia Monchengladbach 4-1 in a third round German Cup tie.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

ACTION: *Morocco lead Ethiopia 5-0 when their World Cup qualifier is abandoned after 55 minutes. Ethiopia, with no substitutes, have lost five players because of injury so the referee abandons the game. Other African qualifiers bring victories for Zaire, Egypt, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Gabon, Madagascar and Zambia.*

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

ENGLAND/SCOTLAND: *Leeds and Rangers agree to try to effect a ban on away fans at their Champions' Cup second round tie.*

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

ACTION: *The day's European under-21 matches bring victories for Poland, Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Wales and Russia.*

BELGIUM: *The Heysel stadium will not be demolished but redeveloped, according to fedration secretary Alain Courtois.*

ENGLAND: *Manager Graham Taylor names Paul Gascoigne in his starting line-up for the Wembley World Cup qualifier against Norway.*

FRANCE: *Marseille sell another World Cup star, this time Cameroon's Francois Omam Biyik, to Lens. This follows last week's departure of Rafael Martin Vazquez back to Real Madrid . . . the French government offers a £900,000 grant to wards reconstruction of the tragedy-hit Furiani stadium in Corsica.*

SOUTH AFRICA: *Mamelodi Sundowns draw 2-2 with touring Sheffield Wednesday.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

ACTION: *The heaviest World Cup day in Europe for nearly four years is not a happy one for the big guns. England are held 1-1 at home by Norway (in a match which sees Arturo Brizio become the first Latin American to referee a European World Cup tie), Italy give away two ridiculous early goals and scrape a 2-2 draw at home to Switzerland while Holland also have to come from 2-0 down to draw at home to Poland . . . Rudi Voller scores on his last appearance for Germany in a 1-1 draw against Mexico in Dresden.*

ITALY: *The trial of Torino's Uruguayan forward Carlos Aguilera (right) and 15 other people accused in connection with a Latin American prostitution ring is postponed until November 26 . . . Napoli are fined £8,000 for crowd trouble at the league game against Juventus . . . Parma goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel is banned for one game for dissent during a 5-2 defeat by Lazio.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

ACTION: *Saudi Arabia beat the United States 3-0 in the opening semi-final of the King Fahd Intercontinental Cup in Riyadh . . . Italy beat Switzerland 1-0 in the European under-21s.*

ITALY: *Napoli protest to FIFA, via the Italian federation, that Sevilla have not made the due down-payment on the Diego Maradona transfer and that he should be barred from Spanish League action.*

SPAIN: *The federation rules that La Coruna's Brazilian star, Bebeto, can play against Barcelona on Saturday because a one-game suspension imposed for expulsion against Tenerife had been "served" during a Spanish Cup tie.*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

ACTION: *Argentina beat Ivory Coast 4-0 in the second semi-final of the King Fahd Intercontinental Cup in Riyadh. Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta scores twice.*

FRANCE: *Basile Boli of Marseille is ordered to attend a disciplinary commission after a clash with Monaco striker Jurgen Klinsmann. Boli has admitted elbowing Klinsmann in the face, unseen by the referee. Monaco players had protested that only urgent action by a team-mate saved Klinsmann from swallowing his tongue.*

SWITZERLAND: *FIFA says officials are satisfied that Sevilla have paid the first instalment of the Maradona transfer fee but that banking red tape has delayed its clearance to Napoli.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

ACTION: *HJK of Helsinki beat MyPa 2-0 on the last day of the Finnish League season to be crowned champions three points clear of Kuusysi Lahti and FC Jazz Pori . . . French champions Marseille go down 1-0 at home to Nantes . . . Stefan Beckenbauer, son of Franz, helps Saarbrucken hold his father's old club, Bayern Munich, to a 1-1 draw . . . three players are sent off as Sporting Lisbon ease pressure on Bobby Robson by defeating Benfica 2-0 . . . Moscow Spartak beat local rivals Lokomotiv 4-1 to secure the first Russian League title with two weeks still to go . . . European champions Barcelona go down 1-0 to Spanish leaders La Coruna.*

ITALY: *Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino complains that FIFA forced them to sell Diego Maradona to Sevilla. He says Maradona had demanded a one-off fee of £4million to play out the remaining season of his Napoli contract.*

SOCCER ON TV

SCREENSPORT

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1
20.00 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL : The Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues

MONDAY NOVEMBER 2
16.30 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: The Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues
20.30 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: Goals and news from European Leagues

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3
11.30 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues
16.30 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: The European Leagues

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4
08.00 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 5
20.30 ..... FOOTBALL HOLLAND
21.00 ..... FUTBOL ESPANOL: Spanish Highlights
22.00 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: The European Football Leagues

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6
15.30 ..... FUTBOL ESPANOL
17.00 ..... FOOTBALL HOLLAND

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7
17.50 ..... LIVE — FOOTBALL BRAZIL: Paulista League Championship — Quarter-finals

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8
06.50 ..... FOOTBALL BRAZIL: Paulista League Championship — Quarter-finals
20.00 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues

MONDAY NOVEMBER 9
16.30 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues
22.30 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: The European Leagues

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10
11.30 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues
17.00 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: European Leagues

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12
22.30 ..... FUTBOL ESPANOL
23.30 ..... FOOTBALL HOLLAND

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13
13.00 ..... FUTBOL ESPANOL
17.30 ..... INTERNATIONAL CLUB FOOTBALL

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14
14.00 ..... INTERNATIONAL CLUB FOOTBALL
17.50 ..... FOOTBALL BRAZIL: Paulista League Championship — Quarter-finals

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15
06.20 ..... FOOTBALL BRAZIL: Paulista League Championship — Quarter-finals
20.00 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues

MONDAY NOVEMBER 16
16.30 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues
20.30 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: European Leagues

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 17
11.30 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues
16.30 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: European Leagues

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18
08.00 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: European Leagues

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19
20.30 ..... FOOTBALL HOLLAND
21.00 ..... FUTBOL ESPANOL
22.00 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPEAN: European Leagues

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20
07.00 & 17.00 FOOTBALL HOLLAND
15.30 ..... FUTBOL ESPANOL

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21
17.50 ..... LIVE FOOTBALL BRAZIL: Paulista League Championship — Quarter-finals

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 22
06.50 ..... FOOTBALL BRAZIL: Paulista League Championship — Quarter-finals
20.00 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues

MONDAY NOVEMBER 23
16.30 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues
20.30 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: European Leagues

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24
11.30 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues
16.30 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: European Leagues

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 25
08.00 ..... FOOTBALL EUROPA: European Football Leagues
23.20 ..... LIVE SOUTH AMERICAN SOCCER: Brazil v Uruguay

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 26
16.30 ..... SOUTH AMERICAN SOCCER: Brazil v Uruguay
20.30 ..... FOOTBALL HOLLAND
21.00 ..... FUTBOL ESPANOL

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 27
07.00 & 17.30 FOOTBALL HOLLAND
12.30 ..... BRAZIL V URUGUAY
15.30 ..... FUTBOL ESPANOL

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 28
17.50 ..... LIVE FOOTBALL BRAZIL: Paulista League Championship — Quarter-finals

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 29
06.50 ..... FOOTBALL BRAZIL: Paulista League Championship — Quarter-finals
20.00 ..... TOP MATCH FOOTBALL: Spanish, Dutch and Portuguese Leagues

SKY SPORTS

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER
10.00 ..... GOALS ON SUNDAY
12.00 ..... NETBUSTERS
12.30 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — MIDDLESBROUGH
14.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — LIVE: Aston Villa v QPR
23.00 ..... ASTON VILLA v QPR
01.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER
07.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
09.30 ..... THE BIG LEAGUE
13.00 ..... ASTON VILLA v QPR
18.00 & 22.00 ... SOCCER NEWS
19.00 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL — LIVE: Crystal Palace v Arsenal
23.00 ..... CRYSTAL PALACE v ARSENAL

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER
07.00 & 13.00 ... CRYSTAL PALACE v ARSENAL
18.00 ..... SOCCER NEWS
21.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
23.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER
09.30 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
13.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
18.00 ..... SOCCER NEWS
19.00 & 02.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER
17.30 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — TOTTENHAM
18.00 ..... SOCCER NEWS
19.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
20.30 ..... THE BOOT ROOM
23.30 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER
08.00 & 12.30 ... NETBUSTERS
08.30 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — TOTTENHAM
09.30 & 17.00 ... THE BOOT ROOM
13.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
18.00 & 22.30 ... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER
09.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
10.00 ..... THE BOOT ROOM
11.00 ..... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
21.30 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

SUNDAY 8 NOVEMBER
07.00 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
10.00 ..... GOALS ON SUNDAY
11.00 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — OLDHAM
11.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
14.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — LIVE: Sheffield United v Sheffield Wednesday
19.00 & 01.00 ... GERMAN LEAGUE
23.00 ..... SHEFFIELD UNITED v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER
07.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
13.00 ..... SHEFFIELD UNITED v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
18.00 & 22.00 ... SOCCER NEWS
19.00 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL — LIVE: Oldham v Norwich
22.00 ..... SOCCER NEWS
23.00 ..... OLDHAM v NORWICH

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER
07.00 & 13.00 ... OLDHAM v NORWICH
18.00 ..... SOCCER NEWS
21.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
23.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER
09.30 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
13.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
18.00 & 22.00 ... SOCCER NEWS
22.03 & 02.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — NOTTINGHAM FOREST

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER
17.30 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — NOTTINGHAM FOREST
18.00 ..... SOCCER NEWS
19.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
20.30 ..... THE BOOT ROOM
23.30 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER
08.00, 12.30 & 23.30 NETBUSTERS
08.30 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — NOTTINGHAM FOREST
09.30 & 17.00 ... THE BOOT ROOM
13.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
18.00 & 22.30 ... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER
09.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
10.00 ..... THE BOOT ROOM
11.00 ..... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
21.30 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER
07.00 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
10.00 ..... GOALS ON SUNDAY
11.00 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — LIVERPOOL
11.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
14.00 & 23.00 ... SUPER SUNDAY
21.30 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE

MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER
07.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
18.00 & 22.00 ... SOCCER NEWS
19.00 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL — LIVE: First round tie from the FA Cup
23.00 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER
07.00 & 13.00 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL
18.00 ..... SOCCER NEWS
21.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
01.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER
09.30 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
18.00 & 22.00 ... SOCCER NEWS
19.00 ..... INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL — LIVE: England v Turkey
22.03 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — OLDHAM
02.30 ..... England v Turkey

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER
09.30 ..... England v Turkey

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER
13.30 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — OLDHAM
18.00 & 22.00 ... SOCCER NEWS
19.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
20.30 ..... THE BOOT ROOM
01.30 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER
08.00, 12.30 & 23.30 NETBUSTERS
08.30 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — OLDHAM
09.30 & 13.00 ... THE BOOT ROOM
18.00 & 22.30 ... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER
09.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
10.00 ..... THE BOOT ROOM
11.00 ..... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
21.30 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

SUNDAY 22 NOVEMBER
07.00 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
10.00 ..... GOALS ON SUNDAY
11.00 ..... THE CLUB SHOW
11.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
14.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — LIVE
21.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
23.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY (Match to be confirmed)

MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER
07.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
13.00 ..... FA PREMIER LEAGUE
18.00 & 22.00 ... SOCCER NEWS
19.00 ..... MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL LIVE: QPR v Liverpool
23.00 ..... QPR v LIVERPOOL

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER
07.00 & 13.00 ... QPR v LIVERPOOL
18.00 ..... SOCCER NEWS
21.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
23.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER
09.30 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
13.00 ..... THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
18.00 & 22.00 ... SOCCER NEWS
19.00 ..... FA CUP FOOTBALL — LIVE: A first round replay
22.03 & 02.30 ... THE CLUB SHOW — CRYSTAL PALACE
24.30 ..... FA CUP FOOTBALL

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER
09.30 & 14.00 ... FA CUP FOOTBALL: A first round replay
17.30 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — CRYSTAL PALACE
18.00 & 22.00 ... SOCCER NEWS
20.30 ..... THE BOOT ROOM
23.30 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
01.30 ..... NETBUSTERS

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER
08.00, 12.30 & 23.30 NETBUSTERS
08.30 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — CRYSTAL PALACE
09.30 & 17.00 ... THE BOOT ROOM
13.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
18.00 & 22.30 ... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SATURDAY 28 NOVEMBER
09.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
10.00 ..... THE BOOT ROOM
11.00 ..... SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
23.00 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

SUNDAY 29 NOVEMBER
07.00 ..... EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
10.00 ..... GOALS ON SUNDAY
11.00 ..... THE CLUB SHOW — CRYSTAL PALACE
11.30 ..... NETBUSTERS
14.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY — LIVE
21.00 ..... GERMAN LEAGUE
23.00 ..... SUPER SUNDAY

EUROSPORT

MONDAY 2 NOVEMBER
22.30 ..... EUROGOALS

TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER
9.30 & 17.30 .. EUROGOALS

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER
9.30 ..... EUROGOALS
21.30 ..... THE EUROPEAN CUP

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER
8.30 & 22.00 .. THE EUROPEAN CUP

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER
11.00 ..... THE EUROPEAN CUP

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER
21.00 ..... EUROGOALS

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER
12.00 & 17.00 EUROGOALS

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER
11.00 ..... EUROGOALS
19.00 ..... HIGHLIGHTS FROM LIBERTADORES CUP

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER
11.00 ..... LIBERTADORES CUP
21.00 ..... WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER
11.00 & 16.00 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING
12.30 ..... LIBERTADORES CUP

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER
19.40 ..... FRANCE v FINLAND: LIVE

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER
12.00 ..... SUNDAY ALIVE: Romania v Czechoslovakia
17.30 ..... ROMANIA v CZECH

MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER
12.00 ..... FRANCE v FINLAND
14.00 ..... ROMANIA v CZECH
21.00 ..... EUROGOALS

TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER
12.00 & 17.00 EUROGOALS

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER
11.00 ..... EUROGOALS

MONDAY 23 NOVEMBER
21.00 ..... EUROGOALS

TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER
12.30 & 17.00 EUROGOALS

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER
11.30 ..... EUROGOALS
18.30 ..... FOOTBALL: Highlights from the European Champions' Cup
21.00 ..... EUROPEAN CUP

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER
11.30 & 21.00 THE EUROPEAN CUP
13.30 ..... Highlights from the European Champions' Cup

FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER
11.30 ..... THE EUROPEAN CUP
13.30 & 16.00 FOOTBALL: Highlights from the European Champions' Cup

Europe

SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Super Depor

Iglesias hits the high notes

REPORTERS' lives are littered with trapdoors which could plunge them into scenes of embarrassment. One of them is being asked for four articles on Deportivo La Coruna in the same week and successfully avoiding accusations of plagiarising your own text.

This happened in mid-October when fans throughout Europe began to rub their eyes and realise that the humble club from Galicia, despite losing their 100 per cent record in a 3-1 defeat by Tenerife, were still ahead of the Big Boys at the top of the League.

At this point the Spanish soccer world offered sharp contrasts between disbelief and those voices who uttered the time-honoured "I told you so".

The disbelief centres on hard background facts. Deportivo, rapidly nicknamed "Super Depor" after their sprint start, can lay no logical claims to high placings in the pecking order among clubs.

In 1988 they were £3m in debt and facing a long drop into the "well" of regional football in Division 2B. Then a local lawyer, Augusto Cesar Lendoiro, miffed that ex-schoolmate Francisco Vazquez was elected as Mayor, opted to project his image via the presidency of Deportivo.

He put the club on their financial feet and this season has sold over 20,000 season tickets for the 29,000-capacity Riazor stadium.

Sorting out the football proved equally difficult. After an absence of 18 years, Deportivo finally made it back to the First Division last term. But after sacking manager Marco Boronat at mid-season, they won only eight of their 38 fixtures and scraped the narrowest of survivals at the expense of Betis in the relegation play-offs.

In a tie where 12 players were booked, they won 2-1 at Riazor and held out for a 0-0 draw in Seville. Hardly the stuff championship dreams are made of.

So much for the Roy of the Rovers angle. The "I told you so" brigade were those who made note of the £5m spent during the summer and felt that the money had been shrewdly used.

Some of the foundations of the current side already had been laid.

Francisco Javier Gonzalez Perez, thankfully known as Fran, had been at the centre of a tug of war between Deportivo and Real Madrid, which ended in an option for the latter to buy. At 23 he is emerging as one of the most gifted left-sided midfielders in Spain — and pending the nod from Javier Clemente — a natural successor to Martin Vazquez in the national team.

Full-back Luis Lopez Rekarte had been bought from Barcelona, only to miss a third of the season through injury.

Bustling striker Claudio Barragan had contributed 10 goals after joining from Mallorca. His international debut in Belfast made him the first Deportivo player to wear the Spanish shirt for 18 years, although his bruising style does little to evoke memories of Suarez or Amancio.

The trouble was that five bargain-basement signings in Eastern Europe did nothing to raise standards. Only Serbian sweeper Miroslav Djukic, signed from RAD Belgrade two seasons ago, has made his mark.

This summer, however, was the watershed. The fans in Galicia had responded massively to Deportivo's compulsory conversion into a limited company and 14,000 of them are now shareholders.

The injection of cash allowed Lendoiro to dive into the transfer market while other clubs, struggling to raise their share capital, were tightening belts, braces, ties and shoelaces.

Success

The headline-grabbing signing was that of Bebeto, the Vasco da Gama striker whose frail physique had raised question marks about his adaptation to European soccer. So far, and with Claudio's blunt-instrument style providing the ideal foil to his delightful skills, he has offered an emphatically positive answer.

The other major success is that of fellow Brazilian Mauro da Silva from Bragantino, who has looked a complete footballer at the hub of the Deportivo midfield.

The club completed the jigsaw by acquiring nearly-men from the big clubs. Adolfo Aldana made only 11 appearances for Real Madrid last season. Nando started only 12 games for Valencia. Ramon had scored only five goals in 34 games for Sevilla.

Their arrival in La Coruna and their swift integration in a compact side owes a great deal to the current coach, Arsenio Iglesias.

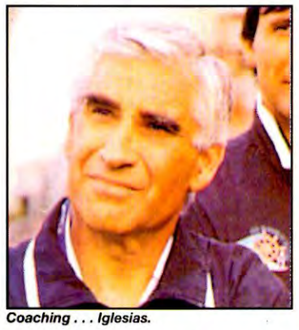
His voice is considerably stronger than Julio's and his energy on the touchline belies the birthdate of December 25, 1931, on his identity card.

His favourite gesture is a raquet-less version of Boris Becker's backhand accompanied by a McEnroe-style volley, both aimed at the referee.

Off the pitch Iglesias is a mild man who only recently abandoned the country bumpkin image he once cultivated by speaking an unintelligible "gallego" and, in his own words "dressing like a shepherd".

His success at 60 is welcomed by many of Spain's younger media-men as proof that the old uns are still good uns and that the young whippersnappers did not invent football, as they would have us believe.

Iglesias shared his playing career among Fabril, Deportivo, Sevilla, Granada and Oviedo, where he hung his boots to dry. He began his coaching career where he had begun his playing career,in Deportivo's nursery side, Fabril, and took over the first team in 1970, promptly revealing himself as a wolf in shepherd's clothing by taking Deportivo straight into the First Division.



Coaching . . . Iglesias.

Then they were relegated in 1973 with seven wins in 34 games, and he was shepherded out of the door.

In the ensuing years Iglesias also gained promotion for Zaragoza and Hercules, but had less successful spells at Burgos, Almeria and Elche.

In the First Division he always seemed to produce conservative survival-minded sides who drew more games than they won but rarely more than they lost.He returned to Galicia in the early 80s to take over Compostela and found his way back to Riazor as the lifebelt thrown in at the last moment to keep Deportivo from Division 2B.

Scoring . . . Bebeto.

His reward for doing so was an upstairs job. He was ushered downstairs when Boronat was sacked last term and has now helped to build a team with enough talent to treat the big boys on first-name terms, as they demonstrated with straight wins over Celta in Galicia's big derby, Sevilla, Osasuna, Real Sociedad, Real Madrid and Barcelona.

The 3-1 defeat by Deportivo prompted Real to produce the other big story of the month by paying £3.6m to bring Rafael Martin Vazquez back from Marseille, where he had played the full 90 minutes in only one of 11 fixtures.

"Rafa" and more especially his father, had had a row with the club president, Ramon Mendoza, while negotiating new terms, and this had provoked his departure for Torino in 1990.

But after months of desperately seeking a left-sided midfielder, Mendoza finally heaped fuel into the pipe of peace and secured the return of the prodigal.

All of which diverted attention from the return of the other prodigal, Diego Maradona, at Sevilla. Having asserted that he needed two months to reach match fitness, he had six games in 20 days, including a trip to Argentina, during which he played again Sevilla for Boca Juniors and was immediately re-engulfed by the whirring noise of cash registers.

His first League match in Bilbao had Business As Usual written all over it when a bad tackle by Lakabeg bruised an ankle and provoked calls for special protection by referees.

Three days later team-mate Jose Miguel Prieto cynically sent two Zaragosa players to the dressing-room before time Maradona reacted by saying: "Football is a man's game and it is up to referees to control it. If you kick or use your hand and the referee does nothing, that is not the player's fault. Anything goes if the referee doesn't see it."

FIFA gave Maradona a helping er . . . hand while he was negotiating his return, in the hope that he might have matured into an example for youngsters. He is still unequalled as a footballer but of much less stature as a sportsman.

Reacting . . . Maradona.

PORTUGAL BY RINO LANDA

Sporting ease the pressure

SPORTING of Lisbon eased the pressure on coach Bobby Robson in the manner most guaranteed to please their fans — defeating deadly derby rivals Benfica by 2-0, with goals from Bulgaria's Krasimir Balakov and Ivailo Yordanov.

The match deteriorated after that. Referee Carlos Valente sent off Benfica's World Cup midfielder Vitor Paneira (right) for dissent and then Sporting's Filipe Ramos for a second yellow card offence in the 56th minute. Sporting were reduced to nine men in the 83rd minute when Yordanov was sent off, but by then it was too late for demoralised Benfica to take advantage.

Balakov opened the scoring after only two minutes when he fired a snapshot over recalled goalkeeper Silvino. Yordanov headed number two from a cross by Balakov to secure only Sporting's third victory of a season which threatened to turn nasty after the shock home defeat by Grasshopper of Switzerland in the first round of the UEFA Cup.

Benfica were without injured strikers Rui Aguas and Cesar Brito as well as Joao Pinto, but Robson showed no reluctance to celebrate victory, saying: "Let's hope a little bit of the gloom has disappeared and we can look forward to a good season now.

"This win came at just the right time to help us regain confidence. We've got a young team and it will be a little while before we reach our peak."

Joao Pinto's prospects of a return to action in the near future are doubtful after he was taken ill with apparent pneumonia symptoms in Glasgow on the eve of the goalless World Cup draw against Scotland.

Wild rumours circulated in Lisbon when the national squad returned without him. Benfica sent a private plane to bring him home despite reservsations of hospital staff in Glasgow.

Benfica regained self respect on the following Wednesday by thrashing Vac of Hungary 5-1 in the UEFA Cup. Their success overshadowed increasing concern over the rift between coach Tomislav Ivic and former Soviet Union stars Sergei Yuran, Alexander Mostovoi and Vasili Kulkov.

Porto continued top of the table, having scored nine goals in their four home games with national team goalkeeper Vitor Baia conceding only one in the Das Antas.

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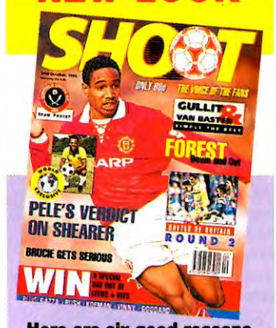

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REPUBLIC OF IRELAND BY SEAN CREEDON

McGrath's treble chance

PAUL McGRATH is in line for a hat-trick of FAI/Opel Player of the Year awards.

Aston Villa defender McGrath, who won the award in 1991 and 1992, is nominated again this year along with John Aldridge and Andy Townsend.

The Under 21 nominees are Terry Phelan, Roy Keane and Steve Staunton.

The awards will be presented at a dinner in Dublin on November 15, the eve of the team's departure for the World Cup game in Seville.

Spain have been the Republic's most frequent opponents over the years, and this will be the 22nd meeting between them.

Former Blackburn striker Andy McEvoy was the last Irish player to score in Spain, in the 4-1 defeat in October 1965. The last three visits have not produced an Irish goal.

St Patrick's Athletic are not happy with the tribunal decisions on transfer fees between League of Ireland clubs. The Saints have lost eight of the team who won the championship two years ago, and have received less than £50,000.

Manager Brian Kerr was most unhappy about the mere £12,000 for Mark Ennis, leading scorer in the League over the past three seasons, who joined Derry City.

Bohemians, whose last League title was in 1978, were the early leaders. Through the 70s and 80s Bohemians were known as the club with the longest-serving manager in the League, Billy Young.

When he was sacked two years ago the Gypsies turned to one of their former players Eamonn Gregg, who served his managerial apprenticeship with Kilkenny City.

Gregg and Irish Under-21 coach Maurice Price set about building a new team, who won the FAI Cup last season, beating Cork City in the final.

Now both clubs are setting the pace at the top of the table. Sligo Rovers were the first club to change managers this season.

After losing their opening three League games, Dublin-based Dermot Keely quit and was replaced by Willie McStay, an older brother of Celtic's Paul.

Hoping . . . McGrath could win again.

ITALY BY PADDY AGNEW

Goals galore in the Serie A

But is it good for the game?

Seasoned soccer fans reading the Italian First Division results on last month's fifth Sunday of the season could have been forgiven for thinking that their eyesight had gone badly wrong.

Milan win 7-3, Lazio and Udinese both win 5-2, Brescia win 4-1, Juventus win 3-2 while Genoa and Ancona draw 4-4, all on a day when a record 48 goals have been scored in nine league matches . Can this be true, is this really Italy?

True it was and a record which had stood since February 1931 went out the window to provide emphatic evidence that Italian soccer is changing — and for the better, many would add.

One begins to wonder if the day of negative "catenaccio" (literally padlock) defences is over.

It is perhaps too soon to arrive at hard and fast conclusions, but both statistics and the overall impression of this season's championship contribute to the notion that nothing will ever again be quite the same in the world's "most beautiful league," as they love to call it in these parts.

The new era in Italian soccer is probably the fortunate outcome of three simultaneous influences — the new rules concerning the backpass to the goalkeeper, the influence of talented foreign players who have not been brought up in the defensive, fear-oriented Italian mentality and, last but perhaps most important, the example set by the most successful (and most attack minded) side in the land, namely champions Milan.

To begin, however, with the statistics. Firstly, there can be no doubt that more goals than ever are being scored in Italian soccer this season. That Sunday's 48 goal spree brought the total number of goals scored this season to 156 in five games.

This compares favourably with 89 last season, 87 in '90-'91, 107 in '89-'90 and 106 in '88-'89 (after five games).

Furthermore a look around the rest of Europe this season reveals the remarkable fact that more goals per First Division game have been scored in Italy than eslewhere.

The Italian average is 3.545 per match, which compares with 3.3 (Belgium), 2.964 (Czechoslovakia), 2.925 (Germany), 2.854 (Turkey), 2.716 (England), 2.681 (Scotland), 2.666 (Switzerland), 2.600 (Holland), 2.580 (Spain) and 2.344 (France).

Statistically, the case rests. Clearly, more goals are being scored, but why and is this necessarily a good thing ?

It is arguable that the abolition of the backpass to the goalkeeper has had a more profound effect in Italy than elsewhere.

A whole generation of defenders brought up to regard the backpass as the most normal way out of both defensive difficulties or lack of attacking options has now had to learn to keep the game moving with a consequent knock-on effect in terms of on-field action and therefore, by extension, goalscoring possiblities.

Arguable

It is equally arguable, however, that the gradual increase of foreign player influence over a decade when the permitted number of foreigners went from one per side to the current three has also begun to tell.

Players like the Brazilian Zico, Frenchman Michel Platini, German Lothar Matthaus, Dutchmen Ruud Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard (above) were not brought up in a defensive tradition and their belief in "attack as the best means of defence" has certainly not gone unnoticed. Yet, it is probably thanks to Arrigo Sacchi and Milan that Italian soccer currently seems to be changing.

Jean-Pierre Papin.

Sacchi, the man who arrived from then Third Division Parma to coach Milan to a title win in his first season, did so on the strength of a soccer never previously seen in Italy.

Where fear had been the predominant player emotion, Sacchi replaced it with "get at them before they get at you".

Where coaches had sent sides out designed above all "not to concede one (goal)", Sacchi sent out a side willing to concede the odd goal but determined to score a lot more itself.

Milan worked and, five seasons later and with a new coach, it is still working.

The point has been taken. Milan captain Franco Baresi puts it simply: "Undoubtedly, many sides have tried to follow us in our more daring game and something, perhaps, has stuck."

One man who certainly believes that Italian soccer has changed is the current Sampdoria coach, Swede Sven Eriksson, who returned to Italian soccer this season from Benfica in Portugal and following a previous five year period from '84 to '89 when he had coached AS Roma and Fiorentina.

Milan's Frank Rijkaard.

Eriksson believes things are much different in Italy today, saying: "In my opinion, the tactical lineout matters little, rather it is a question of mentality.

"By comparison with a few seasons ago, more teams are now using more players in attack and this obviously favours attacking soccer while at the same time leaving defences more inclined to error."

As for how good a thing it is to have more goals scored, opinions will always be divided.

Franco Baresi feels that some of the goals conceded that first Sunday in October were distinctly "soft" and do nothing for the image of soccer.

Annibale Frossi, 1936 Olympic soccer gold medallist, still believes the perfect soccer match should end in 0-0, with neither side evidently having made a mistake.

They could be right. Television ratings and crowd attendance figures, however, suggest that fans and viewers are more interested in the soccer of 48 "mistakes" than in goalless perfection. The debate goes on.

What is certainly not a matter of debate, though, is the unquestioned superiority of Milan, with or without Gullit, Papin, Boban or Savicevic.

Afford

After only five days, Milan could afford to give the others a one match start (thanks to their washed out game with Sampdoria) and still lead the league. It's almost grotesque.

That aforementioned 7-3 dismissal of Fiorentina, a side some of us thought might be shaping up as preteneders to the crown, only served as a reminder.

Despite the inevitable, initial foreign player rumblings (especially from Gullit), the Milan dressing room seems to be holding together.

If we want a contest at all out of this year's championship, then we will have to hope that the promising starts made by such as Juventus (3-2 away winners against Napoli), by Fiorentina (whose Effenberg-Batistuta-Laudrup trio looks the best new formation of the season) by Internazionale (whose canny coach Osvaldo Bagnoli has already got goals out of "Toto" Schillaci) or even by Lazio (whose Paul Gascoigne could yet have a galvanising effect) will amount to something.

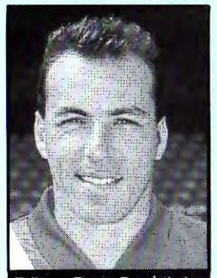
Until then, however, it's Milan — business as usual.

ISRAEL BY MARK RIVLIN

Europe helps to raise standards

THE domestic season in Israel got off to a cracking start, with gates up and the standard of play rising.

The performances of Maccabi Tel Aviv and Hapoel Petah Tikva in Europe — despite defeat — gave rise to optimism as the national squad prepare for their World Cup qualifying programme, beginning against Austria in Vienna on October 28.



Exile . . . Ronny Rosenthal

The national squad had good results in warm-up games in Iceland, Poland and Hungary.

Former Rangers keeper Bonnie Ginsburg, now playing for Betar Tel Aviv, is in excellent form, and with Maccabi Tel Aviv's talented midfield duo, Itzik Zohar and Avi Nimni, feeding European exiles Ronny Rosenthal and Shalom Tikva, Israel may do well in Group Six.

After getting through the preliminary rounds, Maccabi Tel Aviv lost in the first round of the Champions' Cup, 4-0 on aggregate to Club Brugge. While Hapoel Petah Tikva went out to Feyenoord on away goals after the teams had drawn 2-2 on aggregate.

Hapoel, coached by former Czech international Jan Pivarnik, took the Dutchmen all the way. Their 2-1 win in Tel Aviv was one of the best results in Israeli history.

On the domestic front, newly-promoted Betar Jerusalem led the table after six games. They are by far the best-supported club, easily filling the new 12,000-capacity Malaha stadium, and taking an average of 3,000 fans to away games.

Betar's close-season signing from Torpedo Moscow, Vladimir Greishneb, is the driving force behind the team's rise, and two of the most promising youngsters in the local game, defender Tomer Azulai and striker Ronen Harazi, have been in excellent form.

Two other unlikely contenders for the title are Maccabi Petah Tikva and Bnei Yehuda, second and third respectively.

Petah Tikva's policy of nurturing talented youngsters is paying off. A 3-1 demolition of champions Maccabi Tel Aviv was the best performance to date.

Bnei Yehuda, who draw support from the Yemenite quarter of Tel Aviv, also benefit from a strong youth policy. European fans will get the chance to see the club's two top youngsters, Haim Revivo and Alon Mizrahi, in action with the national squad in the World Cup preliminaries.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

Clubs progress as national side stumble

WHILE the Danish national side has suffered a stuttering reaction to their European Championship triumph, the country's club sides have enjoyed unprecedented success.

Three sides, Frem, FC Copenhagen, and AGF Aarhus, earned creditable victories in the first round of European club competitions. Only champions Lyngby failed to progress, beaten in both legs by a strong Rangers side, who nevertheless took an interest in their Under-21 international midfielder Morten Wieghorst.

Frem's victory was perhaps the best of the lot, winning 6-3 on aggregate against Swiss side Neuchatel Xamax. A 2 -2 draw away was convincingly followed up by a 4-1 home triumph, with two goals from Piotr Haren.

The Copenhagen cinderella club's achievement was even more astonishing when you consider they are run on a shoestring budget and couldn't even afford to pay for the usual pre-match hotel routine. The players are part-timers and were up the next morning to go to work at eight as usual.

FC Copenhagen's defeat of Finnish side MP Mikkeli was no surprise. In their previous guise of B1903, the club after all beat Bayern Munich 6-2 last season.

But the 10-1 aggregate scoreline was one of the best ever recorded by a Danish side in European competition. The Johansen twins were the stars of the show, Michael netting twice in the first leg and Martin doing the same in the return.

Cup-winners AGF, captained by Kent Nielsen, had the most turbulent passage, beating AIK Stockholm on the away goals rule. A 3-3 draw away was followed by a 1-1 match at home which was marred by crowd trouble in Denmark's second city caused by Swedish fans.

The improvement of Danish clubs has been consistently maintained in the last five years since Brondby made the first brekathrough. And, whatever, the current troubles of the national side, their example in winning a major tournament, has ended any inferiority complex Danish clubs suffered.

Qualifying for the World Cup finals in 1994 will be a struggle for Denmark, though, after drawing each of their first three matches 0-0. They should have won all three, although the performances is each game left much to be desired.

Kim Christofte, who scored the winner in the Euro '92 semi-final shoot-out against Holland, missed a spot-kick against Lithuania and was dropped for the next match against the Republic of Ireland.

In that game Brian Laudrup missed a couple of good chances despite being the pick of players on parade. Jan Heintze returned to the team at left wing-back after a year out through internal suspension, and Jan Bartram returned to the squad after 18 months out of the game to travel round the world!

The player most Danish fans would like to see back is Barcelona's Michael Laudrup. But so far there has been no sign he will end his dispute with national coach Richard Moller Nielsen.

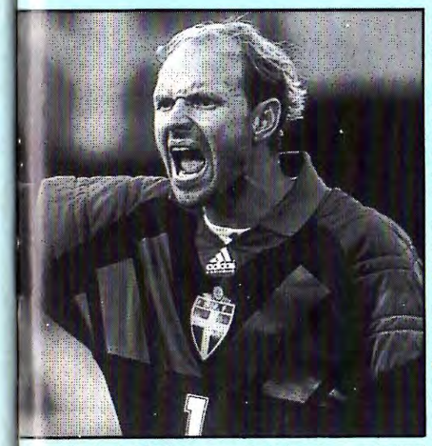
SWEDEN BY PENTTI HIETANEN

Svensson's worried

ALTHOUGH Sweden passed their first World Cup test with a 1-0 win over Finland in Helsinki, national coach Tommy Svensson was far from happy with his side's performance.

Without Tomas Brolin, injured during the Barcelona Olympics, Sweden's attack looked anything but menacing. Martin Dahlin "earned" (dived ?) a penalty for Klas Ingesson to score, but otherwise he, too, was ineffective. Stefan Pettersson, so good in the 2-2 draw with Norway was off colour and looked confused.

At the moment, Sweden's established forwards all seem to be on a rough ride. Gothenburg's Johnny Ekstrom is still upset over his rejected move to Chelsea, while big Kennet Andersson wants to leave Belgium's Mechelen.



Svensson also must replace goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli (above), whose ribs were bruised in Helsinki. The long-term stand-in, Lasse Eriksson (Norrkoping), is not having the best of seasons, so Svensson could be forced to gamble with Malmo's Jonnie Fedel.

Tommy Soderberg's AIK Stockholm may at last end their jinx and take the League title to the capital.

A Stockholm club has not won the championship since 1967, when Djurgarden did it. AIK, 100 years old last year, have been champions eight times, but not since 1937.

Malmo's new coach is Viggo Jensen, a former Denmark international coach of the Olympic team.

At the same time, Malmo have announced that they will revert to part-time status. For three seasons, they have been Sweden's only full-time club, but as club chairman Hans Bjorkman-Cavalli admitted, the experiment proved too costly. There has been no improvement in attendances, and missing European competitions for two seasons has not helped.

A return to 14 clubs is on cards for the new season. Lars-Ake Lagrell, president of Swedish FA, is strongly in favour of such a change now that economic recession has begun to hit sports.

FINLAND

Vakkila's fuming

NOBODY really could blame Finland's coach, Jukka Vakkila, for sounding off some sour comments after his side gave one of their best showing in years, yet still lost 1-0 to Sweden.

Almost everyone agreed that the decisive penalty was wrongly given by Russian referee Zhuk.

His view was blocked by several players in a massed penalty-area after a Swedish free-kick, yet he unhesitantly pointed to the spot after an alleged foul, to spoil the evening for Vakkila.

Unlucky . . . striker Petri Jarvinen.

Finland were the better team, but again were let down by poor finishing. The main culprit was Aberdeen's Mixu Paatelainen, who wasted at least three clear chances to score. The closest Finland went was when Petri Jarvinen hit a post.

Vakkila can take heart from the fact that his midfielders, Jari Litmanen and Ari Hjelm, matched Jonas Thern and Stefan Schwarz, while the defence looked much improved with Kari Ukkonen at sweeper.

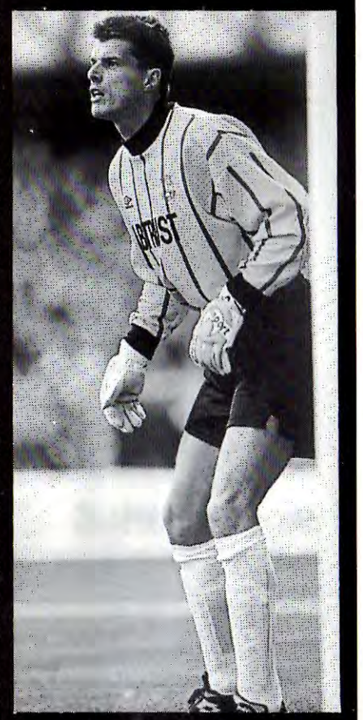
The fight for the League crown was finally resolved when HJK Helsinki forged ahead to finish three points clear of defending champions Kuusysi Lahti.

HJK have found a new goalscoring midfielder in Janne Suokonautio, who almost single-handedly kept the Helsinki club in contention.

HOLLAND BY ERIC NICHOLLS

Theo waits for a call

NEWS travels fast around the soccer world, and the North Sea between Holland and Aberdeen is no barrier.



So Theo Snelders (right) will know all about at least one of the problems Dutch national team manager Dick Advocaat is facing: who keeps goal for Holland in their next World Cup qualifier — against Turkey on December 16?

In their previous game, two blunders by Stanley Menzo helped Poland to leave Rotterdam with a 2-2 draw.

Planned

So Aberdeen import Snelders is asking himself: "Will I get a call?" A lot of people in Holland would like that, and Advocaat has never crossed Snelders off his list.

Last season, when assistant coach to Rinus Michels, Advocaat planned to fly to Scotland to watch Snelders in action, but the match was postponed because of bad weather.

Ed de Goey of Feyenoord, who did so much to help his club's Cup-winners' Cup run last season, is the current No. 2 keeper behind Menzo (below), now that Hans Van Breukelen has quit international fiootball.

Advocaat faces problems elsewhere. He must decide whether to keep all his big-name players in the squad or to go for more newcomers who will be bursting to fight for their country.

The contrast was shown against Poland when Marco Van Basten missed at least three clear chances, and Peter Van Vossen, the 24-year-old from Anderlecht, scored both Dutch goals and impressed by the way he worked for the team.

Which suggests that Aad de Mos, the Dutchman who has coached Ajax and Belgian clubs Mechelen and Anderlecht, had a point when he suggested that too many players look upon playing for the national team as a rest from club football, which remains top priority.

GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Sub Shutt's shot adds to Stuttgart shambles

AN unbelievable administrative lapse by champions Stuttgart rocked German football and may yet cost team manager Christoph Daum his job.

Before the return leg of the Champions' Cup first round in Leeds, Daum and general manager Dieter Hoeness handed the referee a team sheet with 16 names, which included four foreign players. As from this season five foreigners are allowed per team, but at least two must have lived in their club's country without a break for five years and played youth football for three years.

Stuttgart nominated the former Yugoslavs Slobodan Dubajic and Jovica Simanic, Icelander Eyjolfur Sverrisson and Adrian Knup, a Swiss.

None of them fell into the category of "assimilated" player, so in effect there was one import too many.

The Germans, who won the first leg 3-0, were under severe pressure in the closing stages at Leeds, losing 4-1, when Daum sent on Knup and Simanic.

Leeds and Fleet Street's finest had no idea that the rules had been violated until, ironically enough, a German journalist disclosed the fact. Stuttgart's jubilation over winning on away goals turned to dismay and bitter recriminations.

Daum admitted it was his fault, saying: "There was no intention to manipulate. Why should we risk a ban? It was my mistake because I didn't study the rules, which I now bitterly regret."

UEFA awarded the game to Leeds by the customary "default" 3-0, so that over the two legs the aggregate score was 3-3, then UEFA controversially ruled that a third match should be played in neutral Barcelona, not at Leeds.

Insisted

Lawyers advising UEFA insisted that the verdict was correct, saying: "There was no intention to break the rules. No manager would send on a foreigner eight minutes from the end to deliberately jeopardise his team's chances."

All further debates were rendered irrelevant when Leeds won 2-1, the winner coming from substitute Carl Shutt with virtually his first kick.

That was hard on the Stuttgart players, who did nearly all that was asked but were beaten by their incompetent management.

The early exit will cost the club a huge amount of marks as well as loss of face. On the domestic front, Bayern Munich have made their best start for five years. They dropped only two points (both at home), in eight matches and are clear favourites to win their 13th championship, which would improve their own record.

But having finished only 10th last season they missed out on Europe, and will not take part in next season's Cup-winners' Cup, for they already are out of the DFB Cup.

In what was rated the best match of the season so far, they lost away to Borussia Dortmund in a dramatic second-round penalty shoot-out after a 2-2 draw.

Bayern were in good company, for nine clubs, half the Bundesliga, failed to progress. They included Stuttgart and Koln, both beaten by Second Division sides, and Schalke, eliminated by Rot Weiss Essen — one of nine amateur clubs to reach the last 32.

A week later Bayern's latest acquisition, Lothar Matthaus, celebrated his comeback in a League match against modest Wattenscheid.

This attracted 51,000 fans, but Bayern promptly dropped their first point in a 1-1 draw.

Matthaus (left) performed well following an operation on a torn cruciate ligament, and is certain to put many more supporters on the gate in future. Bayern's average of 47,800 is the highest in the League: their break-even figure is 28,000.

Matthaus said: "I'm pleased that I lasted so well over 90 minutes, but not happy with 1-1."

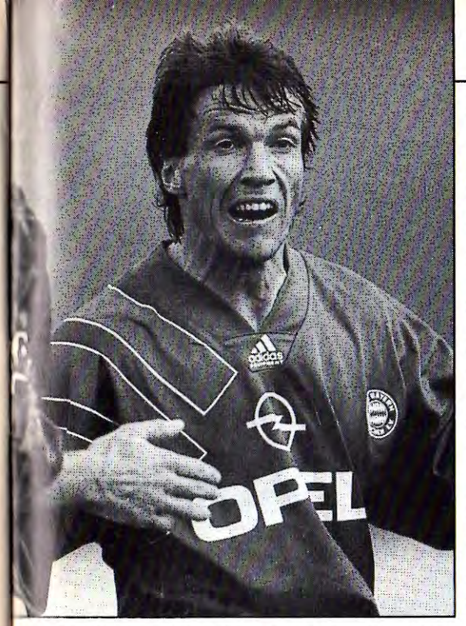
Delighted national team manager Berti Vogts phoned Matthaus and told him: "You have been away long enough. Now we can start planning with you again."

Vogts also confirmed that Andreas Kopke of Nurnberg is now No. 1 goalkeeper.

Kopke has convinced Vogts that he is more consistent than Bodo Illgner, under pressure at bottom-of-the-table Koln.

The national side, not involved with the qualifiers for the World Cup Finals, drew 1-1 against Mexico in a friendly in Dresden.

Marseille striker Rudi Voller scored the German goal on his last international appearance.



HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

Fule shines while Fradi fail

ANTAL FULE, the 25-year-old Vac forward, did so much to keep his club in the early-season limelight with some crucial goals at domestic and international level.

One in each game of the UEFA Cup first-round tie against Groningen gave Vac a 2-1 aggregate victory and entry into the second round as the country's sole representatives, Ferencvaros and Ujpest being eliminated in contrasting circumstances.

Then, with the second goal against his former club Kispest-Honved, Fule ensured a 2-0 victory, even though Imre Aranyos, the midfielder player bought from Eger, was sent off as early as the 21st minute.

Fule has had two spells at Kispest, having made his First Division debut as long ago as 1986, but now impresses as someone with permanent value.

He says he was much influenced, as a boy, by the "total football" of the Dutch national team in the early 1970s and has much respect for his own manager, Janos Csank, a devotee of the Scandinavian style of high-tempo football.

Vac are having an annoying time, losing 2-1 at lowly but spirited Diosgyor and then failing 4-2 at Szekesfehervar, where Videoton won all their first five home League matches.

Pecs, who beat Ferencvaros 2-0 in Budapest before the champions trooped off to their ill-fated Champions' Cup match against Slovan in Bratislava, are another to have won all their home games.

Eliminated

After nine rounds Ferencvaros led with 14 points, two more than Vac and Vasas, while Videton had 11 and Kispest 10.

But Ferencvaros were eliminated from the Champions' Cup in the first round and fined £6,800 — the same amount as Slovan — following the diplomatic row over allegations of Czech police brutality at the first leg.

Ferencvaros complained that black-masked commandos and police attacked their fans without provocation, injuring 15 Hungarians and one Slovak, and demanded the reversal of the result — 4-1. UEFA made the return leg high-risk, ordering stringent security precautions and fan segregation, and Ferencvaros hired 200 private security officers.

Only a handful of Slovan fans travelled, and the match passed off peacefully, on the pitch as well, with a 0-0 draw.

UEFA accepted that intervention by the Slovak security forces was necessary but were critical that some of them were masked. They ruled that the Hungarian fans were not blameless and fined the club, who had been given an extension of a deadline to pay off fines incurred following trouble in a UEFA Cup match in 1990 and a Cup-winners' Cup tie in 1989.

The true Hungarian football supporter despises the irresponsible minority who call themselves Fradi supporters.

Whatever historical or cultural arguments are propounded for any alleged ill-feeling between Hungarians and Slovaks, surely the time has come for Ferencvaros to introduce some form of membership scheme and thus rid themselves of trouble-makers with too much time on their hands.

Ujpest had Balazs Berczy sent off in the first leg of the Cup-winners' Cup tie against Parma.

They lost 1-0, and could manage only a 1-1 draw at home..

Hungary will play Japan and the United States in a three-team tournament in Japan before the spring season opens in March.

Mihaly Szucs (left) of Ferencvaros clears the danger from Slovan's Peter Dubovsky.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Happel happy but lights go out

NATIONAL team manager Ernst Happel (above), usually critical of the playing standards in the Austrian League, was satisfied for a change after the exciting 2-2 draw between champions FK Austria and then leaders Wacker Innsbruck.

"Even in our much-maligned game there are teams capable of producing a splendid match," said Happel, the guru of Austrian football. A pity that only 8,000 bothered to run out for this thriller in the vast Prater Stadium.

Wacker's first home defeat (to FK Austria) was compounded by an unusual injury to captain Manfred Linzmaier's liver, which put him out to the end of the year.

FK Austria then lost at home against relegation candidates St. Polten. No joy either for Rapid Vienna, who slumped into the lower half of the table.

Defeats included one by 3-1 to Wiener Sportklub, financially the poorest club.

The economic situation facing some clubs can be gauged by the problems of Linzer ASK, for the match against leaders, Austria Salzburg.

Turned

The electronic scoreboard was switched on, because "it costs us £160 every time the board is in operation".

The city council, who own the stadium, turned the switch at their own expense, so the 3,500 fans could read in lights that their team lost 3-1.

Promoted Modling under new manager Hans Krankl, beat Wiener SK 5-0. But in the second round of the Cup Modling fell to the part-timers of Zwell, 2-1.

The national side face a tough World Cup qualifying programme. France, Sweden, Bulgaria, Finland and Israel are the group rivals, and there are ten qualifying ties within a year.

In view of the three-month winter break this will put intolerable pressure on the players, and the media are pessimistic about their team's chances.

The opening match, a 2-0 defeat away to the French, will not have raised anybody's confidence in Austria making it to the United States in two years time.

SWITZERLAND

Gates down by a quarter

THE national team — whose promising World Cup campaign began with a 3-1 victory against Scotland at home and a 2-2 draw in Italy — and three out of four clubs who progressed into the second round of the European competitions covered themselves with glory . . . . . but Swiss football is reeling from an alarming slump in domestic attendances.

For the first time since the introduction of the championship play-off phase in 1987-88, the average gate in the first 11 matches fell to 5,615 — a loss of 1,793 per game compared with the corresponding stage last season. That represents a deficit of 24 per cent. In the boom year, 1988, the average crowd was 8,003.

Incredibly, the country's biggest and most successful club Grasshopper Zurich, report an average of 4,133 spectators. Only the promoted clubs, Chiasso and Bulle, atttracted fewer fans, though their average has risen from last year! Even the arrival of manager Leo Beenhakker (above) in Zurich did not stir public interest. Only 3,100 turned up to see "Hoppers" play Bulle, in a stadium which holds 30,000.

Swiss football no longer attracts lucrative sponsorship. Part of the blame is being levelled at TV, which during the opening League rounds was transmitting day-long events from the Olympic Games, plus live soccer from Germany and Italy, where the football is of a higher grade.

Three days after the glorious win over Scotland the six League games drew 34,050 die-hards.

On such gates the clubs will be unable to sustain professional squads of players, most of them already paid far more than the clubs can afford.

On the playing front, Grasshopper did Swiss football proud in the UEFA Cup.

Although beaten at home by Bobby Robson's Sporting Lisbon, they won 3-1 in Portugal and went through. Champions Sion and even Second Division Lucerne (Cup-winners' Cup) also made it to the next round.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

Mozer's move leaves a gap

Mozer . . . back with Benfica.

Mozer's move leaves a gap DID Marseille let Brazilian international centre-back Mozer go to Benfica too soon? Not that Benfica have been tearing up trees this season. Indeed, word quite soon was that Tomislav Ivic, the Yugoslav manager who also found his way there from Marseille — where he was largely unemployed last season — was in danger of losing his place.

But Mozer's departure seems to have had a debilitating effect on the Marseille defence in which he played with the two French international stoppers, Casoni and Boli.

Instead of Mozer, Marseille bought Marcel Desailly, the 24-year-old Ghanaian, from Nantes, for whom he made his debut six years ago. Whether Desailly is really 24 must remain a moot point (all Ghanaian players are terribly vague about their ages) but certainly he looks very young. So far, alas, a little inexperienced, too. He has proved notably unable to give the Marseille defence the cover, anticipation and solidity expected from him.

Not that Marseille, who like the French international team left out Manuel Amoros at the start of the season, have always played with a sweeper. When all his men are available, the new manager, Jean Fernandez, usually prefers to deploy a zonal four-in-line defence, without Amoros.

Ferenandez has a task few would envy, under the volatile aegis of Bernard Tapie. He is only 38, was born in Algeria, and played pro for four clubs, Marseille and Bordeaux among them.

He has been assistant to the last two managers, and now has been moved up to No. 1.

Signed

Losing Steven, Papin and Waddle plus Mozer was the equivalent of tearing the heart out of the team, though the acquisition of such a celebrated star as Rudi Voller, who signed off his international career with a goal against Mexico, has somewhat made up for that.

The season started badly for Amoros who, as he points out, has seldom picked up the rhythm too early. But to be passed over, a League game unimpressively drawn against 10 men at Lens, when two first-teamers were suspended: that totters on the verge of insult.

Amoros, who was a European Championship winner as long ago as 1984 — he played in the Final despite suspension for butting Denmark's Jesper Olsen — seems almost resigned. Tapie and Fernandez have turned the light of their countenance away from him, but he is the kind of player who can always bounce back.

Blanc . . . back in France with Nimes.

He was weary after the European Championship in Sweden. But, as he says, he is only 30 and could have good years ahead of him. "For two months, I've been living pretty much in hell," he says.

"You have to know how to take it philosophically." Not easy.

Auxerre are more than happy with the performances of their new Dutch centre-back, Franck Verlaat, who has fitted in with no trouble.

He is no stranger to European football, figuring in the Ajax team who won the Cup-winners' Cup in 1987.

Verlaat was just out of the Army and came in as a late replacement, when senior defenders were injured, for what was only his second match in the first team. He is still only 24.

That 7-1 home win over Lokomotiv Plovdiv, narrowly beaten away, put Auxerre's tails well up; and of course they made a good start in the championship.

Caen were not so lucky in Europe, but they seem to have a new star in Xavier Gravelaine, who had such a fine game in the first leg of the UEFA Cup first round at home to Zaragoza. He got two goals that night and 20 telephone calls the day after!

Gravelaine, now 24, has not had an easy passage. He was born in Tours, began with Nantes, but in the several seasons there did not really crack it and moved on loan three times.

He admits that he had a chip on his shoulder and felt the world was against him: "With a permanent sense of injustice."

At a time when French football has been going through a bleak anticlimactic period, it's good to see such a newcomer emerging.

An older star has come back to France; from Naples to Nimes, on loan. This, of course, is Laurent Blanc, that elegant, adventurous, goal-scoring sweeper. Things did not quite work out at Napoli, leaving him as the extra foreigner, the one who would have to sit in the stand, and he was not prepared to accept that.

Marseille seems his ultimate destination. In the meantime he is happy to be at Nimes and they are happy to have him. At 27, says Blanc, it's natural that he should have other ambitions than to be the fifth foreign player at Naples.

He acts as his own agent, a rare bird in current football. But he seems to do it well.

MALTA

THE three European entrants from Malta all fell at the first fence, although Hamrun Spartans had the consolation of a second-leg victory — their fourth in continental competition.

Cup-holders Hamrun beat Maribor Branik of Slovenia 2-1, with the outstanding young Joe Brincat scoring both goals. But the first leg had been lost 4-0.

The champions, Valletta, were leading Maccabi Tel Aviv until seven minutes from time, but then conceded two quick goals.

They were unlucky again in Israel, losing 1-0 after having much of the play.

In the UEFA Cup Floriana held Borussia Dortmund to a single goal at Ta Qali, but were hammered 7-2 in Germany.

The matches came very early in the season for the Maltese, who had barely kicked off in the domestic league.

Sliema Wanderers won their first three games to take an early lead, with a 4-1 goal difference. Floriana were second a point behind.

Hibernian, now managed by former England midfielder Brian Talbot, lost 1-0 to Sliema on opening day, but then beat both St. George's and Birkirkara 4-2, with Danish striker Karl Zacchau scoring seven of their goals.

BELGIUM BY GILBERT ROUSSELLE

Waregem burst a bubble

AN unbeaten run of seven matches followed by a 5-2 home defeat and progress to the second round of the UEFA Cup — that was the Anderlecht situation.

European victory over Hibernian was achieved only on away goals, a 2-2 draw in Edinburgh being followed by a 1-1 struggle at home, despite an early goal by Luc Nilis.

Perhaps coach Luka Peruzovic's team were still shocked by the disaster four days earlier against Waregem, who had not won at Parc Astrid since 1974-75.

This time they were 4-1 up after only 29 minutes, thanks mainly to Australian Vidmar's two spectacular solo goals. Degrijse equalised at 1-1, but was sent off after 67 minutes.

Disguised

The earlier run of success had disguised weaknesses in Peruzovic's line-up, but Waregem indicated that Anderlecht had well and truly passed their peak. They had not lost 5-2 at home since Antwerp's visit 30 years ago.

Defeat removed Anderlecht from top spot, to be succeeded by Standard Liege as a result of their 3-1 win over Mechelen.

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TURKEY

More trouble in Trabzon

Trabzon, scene of so much crowd violence in the past, was the setting for another disgraceful outbreak.

Visiting Fenerbahce had beaten Trabzonspor 4-3, each side scoring in the last two minutes of a dramatic climax. At the end, however, hooligans invaded the pitch and trapped players and officials in the dressing rooms.

Eleven policemen were injured, there were 46 arrests and 20 cars parked nearby were damaged. The Mayor of Trabzon and the Fenerbahce president, Metin Asik, could not get out of the ground for nearly two hours and the Fenerbahce party needed a police escort to the airport.

Asik said: "Unbelievable — it was like a horror film."

Fenerbahce players were given a bonus of £1,150 each — well deserved for their courage under fire — and the Avni Aker stadium will be closed for at least three matches.

Three clubs reached the second round of the European competitions, with champions Besiktas the only disappointment.

They lost on a 3-2 aggregate to IFK Gothenburg — a result not entirely unexpected after their moderate start to the season.

Scraped

Trabzonspor, the Cup-holders, beat Turun Turku 2-0 at home and drew 2-2 away, and in the UEFA Cup Fenerbahce overcame Botev Plovdiv and Galatasaray scraped through against GKS Katowice.

Fenerbahce won 3-1 at home, but relied too much on goalkeeper Engin in Bulgaria, where they drew 2-2.

Engin's many saves included one from a penalty. Ridvan Dilman scored both away goals for the Turks.

Galatasary drew 0-0 away to Katowice, then scraped in 2-1 at home.

Surprise leaders Kocaelispor, newly-promoted, led the table from another Anatolian club, Bursaspor, after eight matches. Kocaelispor's latest victory was 6-0 away to Aydinspor.

A week before the riot in the Avni Aker stadium, Trabzonspor drew 0-0 at Bursaspor, where visiting coach George Leekens was knocked unconscious by missiles from the crowd. "These people are not football fans and should not be allowed in," said Leekens.

Besiktas recovered to take joint-second place, and signed a South African, Fani Madida, from Kaiser Chiefs for £100,000.

Several leading players have missed matches through injury and national team manager Sepp Piontek, when asked about his formation for the World Cup qualifier against England at Wembley, said: "God knows. Turkish players do not know how to take care of themselves. Some carry on playing before their treatment is completed. I accuse clubs as well. They force their injured players to keep going."

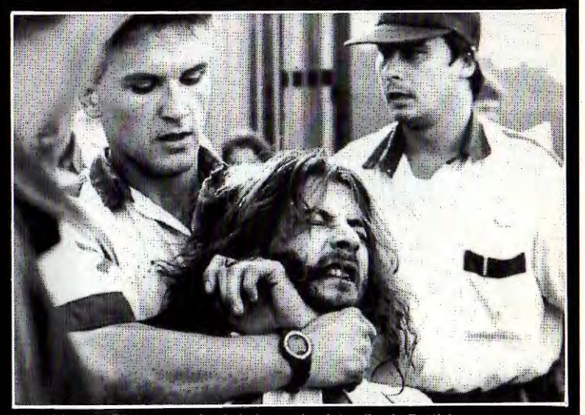
The Turkish FA have a new president — Senes Erzik, who polled 102 votes against 81 for Erdenay Oflas and 11 for Kemal Kamiloglu.

HASAN CEMALI

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

Slovan pay heavy price

CROWD trouble cost Slovan Bratislava a UEFA fine of 15,000 Swiss francs, and the club were perhaps fortunate to escape a bigger punishment.



Trouble . . . a Ferencvaros fan is led away by riot police in Bratislava.

One man died during violence between fans and police at the Champions' Cup match with Ferencvaros.

Bratislava has a sizeable proportion of Hungarian nationals, and the rivalry between the clubs was intense.

Slovan's victory earned them a money-spinning tie against Milan, and revived memories of some odd refereeing decisions when the clubs met in the Cup-winners' Cup a decade ago.

Slovan had won their first six League games before losing at Ostrava, where there was more crowd trouble.

The surprise of the Czecho-Slovak championship so far is the form of D. Streda, as they usually appear in the tables.

The full title is DAC Dunajska Streda, from a tiny Slovak town east of Bratislava, where you may hear Hungarian spoken as often as Slovak.

For many years DAC were a typical provincial club. Promotion and European football, including a visit from Bayern Munich, put them on the map and now under a new manager, 41-year-old Dusan Radolsky, they are among the leaders.

That is a considerable feat even if it does not lead to their first title in succession to the rather better known Slovan. For the moment DAC are enjoying their success and hoping to be the most unlikely champions since Hradec Kralove, 32 years ago.

Sparta relatively easily dealt with newcomers, Airdrieonians, in the Cup-winners' Cup, the first leg away goal being a reassuring cushion and Vrabec and Vonasek finishing off the job in the first half of the return.

Sigma are still in contention in the UEFA Cup, with two victories over "U" Craiova, but Slavia fell at the first hurdle, though only by the odd goal in seven to Hearts.

Fenerbahce will not fancy visiting the narrow Mir (Peace) Stadium, which belies its name on match days.

Apart from the European first round successes, worry continues over the future of professional football in the Czech lands and in Slovakia. Most top players are still looking for a move abroad and gates are generally low.

Sponsors have not been coming forward and another problem is what will happen in 1993-94.

Will there be a Czech/Moravian and a separate Slovak League come the autumn, and what will UEFA's attitude be?

This probably is not the last "All State (i.e. Czecho-Slovak) League Championship" but it might be.

Any such change would have its effect on international competitions, country and club.

For the moment not much news is expected until February and until further notice the CSFA (Czechoslovak FA) in Prague will continue to put out teams in all international competitions.

So far progress has been mixed. The home loss to Belgium was followed by a 4-0 defeat of the Faroes, but the Islanders were only one down until the 85th minute.

GREECE BY LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

Violence leads to PAOK ban

ONCE again, Greek soccer fans showed the world how nasty they can get.

Strife . . . riot police attack hooligans among the PAOK supporters.

Serious incidents at the PAOK Salonika-Paris Saint-Germain UEFA Cup match underlined the never-ending problems faced by soccer teams in Greece for years.

Rioting on and off the pitch is almost a weekly ritual at matches here.

PAOK just happened to be the latest victim and unfortunately, during a very important match.

"These incidents were planned. If they did not happen now they would have happened at another time.

"Some punks have destroyed the history of PAOK and Greek soccer," said PAOK president Thomas Voulinos after the rioting which left his team banned from European competition for two years.

The match was stopped at half-time after fans pelted the pitch with rocks and fireworks and then fought with police.

Twenty-one policemen were injured and dozens of fans were taken for first-aid treatment. A 16-year-old boy was arrested.

Voulinos said that the great majority of PAOK fans deplore the incidents "and this was brought out when they cheered the police when they attempted to stop the trouble."

Sports Under-secretary Vasilis Papageorgopoulos said: "They've embarrassed us in Europe. They blackened the history of one of Greece's top teams. It's a shame."

The hooligans also did extensive damage to the stadium.

UEFA will check closely on fans when the remaining three Greek teams play in Europe. AEK and Olympiakos fans are known for their violent reactions, but Panathinaikos fans are much better behaved.

The dream of Greece finally playing in World Cup competition may become a reality as the Greeks took a step in that direction with a 1-0 win in Iceland, and went top of the qualifying group with four points from two matches.

AEK and Olympiakos are top of the First Division after five matches with 13 points each.

POLAND

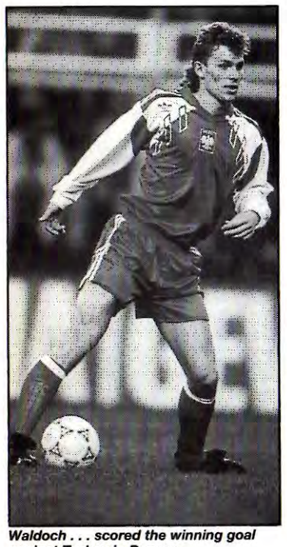
Waldoch ensures lucky escape

THE opening World Cup qualifier in Poznan was won 1-0 by Poland, but it was hard work for Andrzej Strejlau's men.

They could have used up all the luck they can expect in just this one tie against a much improved and very good Turkish team, who were desperately unfortunate.

Waldoch's goal proved sufficient but substitute Hami could have had a hat trick. Twice he hit a post and Lesiak scraped another effort off the line with Bako beaten.

Strejlau will be hoping that Sepp Piontek's Turks can cause the Dutch, English and Norwegians similar problems.



Waldoch . . . scored the winning goal against Turkey in Poznan.

Meanwhile, the championship continues with title holders Lech dominating and leading in front of the two Lodz sides, Widzew and LKS.

Lech maintained their two-goal advantage over Skonto Riga in Latvia to reach round two of the Champions' Cup, and a pairing with IFK Gothenburg.

Miedz Legnica, surprise winners of the Polish Cup, GKS Katowice and Widzew Lodz all went the usual way of Polish flesh in the annual first round slaughter, though with differing performances.

Mieldz lost only 1-0 on aggregate to Monaco, a worthy demise if you come from Division Two and draw last season's runners up.

Katowice, too, could not score at home and even an away goal by Maciejewski could not save them against Galatasaray.

There was much worse in store for Widzew in Frankfurt. The Lodz club's promise in the 2-2 draw in Poland was blown away by a rampant Eintracht, who averaged a goal every ten minutes to run out 11-2 winners on aggregate.

BOB VAUGHAN

BULGARIA

Problems for Penev

WITH such poor international results at club level in recent time, including this season's "whitewash" in the three major European competitions, Bulgaria's national team have to show what can be done.

Iliev and Kiriakov (left) stop Vahirua during the 2-0 win in Sofia.

European Championship successes have been few and far between but Bulgaria's World Cup record is not so bad and Dimitar Penev's team started the new campaign for tickets to the US in 1994 with wins in Helsinki and at home to France.

Sweden away, however, were different. Penev could not field either his Barcelona playmaker, Hristo Stoichkov, or libero Nicholai Iliev, perhaps his two key men.

Secured

The result was a 2-0 defeat when one point would have secured pole position in Group Six.

Perhaps goalkeeper Borislav Mikhailov, currently with Mulhouse, in the French League, was right when he said after his national team's win in Sofia that France were not so bad, the press in France seem to be unreasonably critical of their team and had Deschamps taken his chance to reduce the 2-0 deficit just after the interval, Bulgaria would have had some problems hanging on.

Now Penev and his keeper will have to wait and see how France do in their home game with Finland — having already beaten Austria 2-0 in Paris — and whether the unbeaten Swedes win in Israel before Bulgaria are due in Tel Aviv on December 2.

Ernst Happel's Austria also cannot be written off as CSKA's players would doubtless confirm following their 5-4 elimination on aggregate in the Champions' Cup by FK Austria.

Everything seemed set in the second leg in Sofia, when CSKA reduced the 3-1 scoreline from the first match in Vienna through Merkov's goal after two minutes, for the Bulgarian champions to go through, but they let in Flogel, son of the Rapid player of the fifties, to restore FK's two-goal lead.

Further CSKA goals — Andonov (60) and Draganov (73) — gave the Bulgarians every hope, but Ivanauskas' (67) provided the vital score, and the game gradually slipped away from CSKA.

Basically the tie was lost in Vienna, where a good but careless performance left two goals to catch up when there should have been one at the most.

Now CSKA have to put disappointment behind them and attempt to catch Levski, who are threatening to pull away from the pack.

The Cup-winners' Cup tie with Lucerne was less satisfactory.

After winning 2-1 in Sofia, Levski lost 1-0 in Switzerland, unable to notch the one away goal which would have put them in to the second round.

The Plovdiv clubs, too, could not carry the Bulgarian banner into the second round.

Lok started well at home to Auxerre, drawing 2-2 but "got the treatment" in France. They were three down in 14 minutes, and lost 7-1.

Cross-town rivals Botev were not disgraced but went out 5-3 on aggregate to Turkish side Fenerbahce.

The two Plovdiv sides met in the League the weekend after departing from European competition, and drew 1-1. The match was televised live, and only 5,000 turned up.

ALBANIA BY GEZIM NUSHI

A brighter outlook

SOCCER matters are looking a little brighter in Albania, despite the absence of European competition because of the UEFA ruling that the country had become unsafe for visiting clubs.

Vata . . . has joined Celtic.

That decision could be reversed next year, now that matters are slowly returning to something approaching normality.

Games last season were usually played on neutral grounds to lessen the possible danger of clashes between rival fans, but now the Albanian Football Federation have decided that clubs can play home fixtures where they should be — at home.

Gates have shown an increase as a result, and the Partizani-Dinamo clash in Tirana drew 7,000 spectators — an impressive figure compared with those of recent seasons.

Partizani began with six wins and a draw to top the table, helped by newcomers Bano from Lushnja, Hoxha from Selenice and Coclli from Turkish club Skenderbeu. Coclli scored six goals in his first six games, and old favourite Dosti scored all four in the 4-0 win over Dinamo.

Despite that defeat Dinamo stayed second, three points behind Partizani followed by a group of four.

Former Vllaznia and Dinamo defender Rudi Vata became the first Albanian to go to a British club when he moved to Scotland and joined Celtic for £200,000 — easily a record fee for a player from this country.

Vata, 24, won two Cups and one Championship with Dinamo, but sought political asylum after the European Championship match against France in Paris last year.

ROMANIA

Two vital ties

TWO World Cup ties this month, following one in Belgium, should give a clue as to whether Romania will be competing in the US in '94.

The Czecho-Slovans will come to Bucharest for a key game, eager not to lose following a win over the Faroes and a catastrophe in Prague, when Belgium went away with both points.

The year ends with a tricky visit to Cyprus for a tie on a difficult pitch, which will not help.

More encouragingly, champions Dinamo and Cup-winners' Steaua, got through their first round European ties without the loss of a goal.

Kuusysi and Bohemians were not the toughest of opposition but three wins and a goalless draw was impressive form.

Dinamo's young squad can hardly expect to beat Marseille, but Steaua should account for Aarhus. The two Craiova clubs, "E" and "U", who were both soundly beaten. "P" Timisoara were no match either, for Real Madrid.

RUSSIA BY VICTOR GUSEV

Spartak on top at last

SPARTAK secured the first Russian championship to be played for 80 years thanks to a decisive 4-1 defeat of Moscow rivals Lokomotiv. That left Spartak secure with two matches still to play.

They had dominated the season, thanks to intelligent work last winter in the transfer market, when a number of the best players from the fragmenting ex-Soviet republics were persuaded to assure their careers by moving to Moscow.

Among them are stopper Kakhaber Tchadadze (ex-Tbilisi), midfielders Igor Lediakhov (ex-Rotor Volgograd), Victor Onopko (ex-Shakhtyor Donetsk) and Andrei Piatnitski (ex-Pakhtakor Tashkent) and forward Rashid Rakhimov (ex-Pamir Dushanbe).

Spartak — whether or not they successfully defend their 4-2 lead over Liverpool in the Cup-winners' Cup — are thus already sure of a place in next season's Champions' Cup.

How many of their present team will still be there is open to question. The likes of Onopko, Piatnitski and Lediakhov are hoping to secure contracts in western Europe as soon as Spartak's current European campaign comes to an end.

LITHUANIA

MANAGER Algimantas Liubinskas believes that soccer is making good progress in Lithuania, now a separate entity after half a century as a Soviet satellite.

He says that the game is now almost as popular as basketball, and adds: "As Marx said, the material base is crucial. If we have money we will be able to keep our top players in the country, instead of their going abroad.

"That's why it is important for us to do well in the qualifiers for the World Cup in 1994. We need to maintain public interest in the game."

Liubinskas is quite pleased with the team's record of four points from the first four games.

"Beating Latvia was crucial," he says. "Had we lost, our campaign would have been over. I told the players, 'If we lose, I'll bring in youngsters and prepare for the future.' They responded with a victory, in a very hard match."

Liubinskas pointed out that his national squad includes players now in Austria, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, Byelorussia and Israel.

"They play at a higher level abroad than in the Lithuanian League," he says. "But it's still a disadvantage when preparing a team for a match."

He describes the team's style as "technical football, combination football," and does not have to do much motivating. "When the players hear the national anthem, they feel it in their spirit," he says.

SIMON KUPER

TURKMENISTAN

THE first half of the season in Turkmenistan ended with Kopetdage from Ashgabad two points clear of Nebitchi of Nebitdag.

Kopetdag had won 16 games and lost only one, scoring 92 goals.

Their victories included one by 16-0 over Djeikhun, and top scorer Sergei Kazankov hit 38 goals in 19 appearances.

Kopetdag provided 12 of the 13 players who represented Turkmenistan in a 1-1 home draw against Kazakhstan in the Asian Cup. Ravshan Mukhadov, who plays for Genclerbirligi in Turkey, was the sole outsider.

ARMENIA

EUROPEAN competitions should include teams from Armenia next year, now that the breakaway republic has been admitted to FIFA.

The letter of agreement is among the proudest possessions held by the National Football Federation, whose president is Nikolai Kazarian. He was a member of the Ararat Yerevan team who did the Soviet double in 1973.

Ararat, like most clubs in Armenia, have been badly affected by the exodus of players abroad, and now draw crowds of a mere 4,000 or so to their magnificent Razdan stadium.

Leaders Ghyumri, formerly Leninakan, attract about twice as many.

Football in Armenia includes a 24-team Higher League and a 20-team First Division. Championship play-offs are now being held, with points from the main season being carried over, between these six clubs: Shirak Ghyumri 18, Homenmen Yerevan 15, Banants Kotak 14, Van Yerevan and Ararat Yerevan 13, Kotayk 12.

The Cup Final, a particularly combative affair, was won by Banants, who beat Homenmen 2-0.

MARK WISE

TADJIKISTAN

PAMIR of Dushanbe completed a League and Cup double in the first independent season staged in Tadjikistan.

They won the championship with seven points to spare and beat the second-placed club, Regar of Tursunzade, 1-0 in the Cup Final.

Pamir scored 61 goals in their 21 matches and had the League's three leading marksmen: Umed Alidodov with 11 and Alier Ashurmamadov and Georgi Takhokhov with 10 each.

A second championship will be played autumn-spring, but Pamir will do well to stay on top. They have lost one of the leading players, Sergei Mandreko, to Rapid Vienna.

The season began with 12 clubs, but Khosilot and Bayshan withdrew because of political problems.

There was a healthy average of 3.06 goals per game, and one item for trivia collectors: Rinat Zamaliev of Regar scored the first and last goals of the programme, both from penalties.

VLADIMIR KALINKOVICH

YUGOSLAVIA BY MLADEN BILIC

An 80,000 gate despite the war

AS Yugoslavia sinks into international isolation and United Nations sanctions are starting to bite, the country's soccer is suffering too.

The national team have been banned from the World Cup after many hesitations by FIFA's leaders, hoping that some kind of solution would be found. But life goes on and some 80,000 fans packed the largest Yugoslav stadium, the Belgrade Marakana, to see yet another clash of Yugo Old Firm.

Partizan and Red Star provided the fans with their money's worth, producing a performance rich in suspense and drama. A 1-1 draw demonstrated that the most valuable asset in the new, reduced Yugoslav League, consisting of teams from Serbia and Montenegro only, will be the rivalry of the two great Belgrade clubs.

On the other hand the biggest problem is the surplus of other Belgrade clubs — OFK, Rad, Radnicki and Zemun — who have low attendances and find difficulty in securing sponsorship.

Red Star, who lost most of their players to Italian and Spanish clubs during the summer, had to go hunting for newcomers, and seem to have made the right choices. After seven games they were third, and fans were satisfied with the new generation, headed by robust striker Petkovic, who could be a good partner for Lukic, the only remaining established star.

Lukic is a very talented but injury-prone striker, not very disciplined in his approach. This season he could go through a transformation, from naughty boy to leader of a new generation of talented youngsters.

Partizan's lack of international success in the past few seasons meant that players were not in such demand by foreign clubs. The club lost team boss Ivica Osim, who went to Greece to manage Panathinaikos, but retained top players such as Mijatovic, Stanojkovic, Jokanovic, Vujacic, Petric, Bogdanovic and Brnovic, all internationals.

Bosnian club Borac have succeeded in their application to join the Yugoslav League. The Yugoslav FA took this step after consulting UEFA and after Borac re-registered in Belgrade. Even though coming from the Banjaluka war zone, Borac managed to hold on to most of their players.

MACEDONIA

MACEDONIA, the youngest state created in the former Yugoslavia, still has to be recognised by the majority of world nations, even though other states receiving express recognition are less stable.

Macedonian soccer clubs have a tough task ahead — they have to fight for international acceptance and for the acceptance of domestic fans used to the old Yugoslav League, in which the biggest Macedonian club, Vardar of Skopje, clashed with the likes of Red Star, Partizan, Dinamo and Hajduk.

Just at the time when Macedonia produced its first really important international star — Darko Pancev, who became famous for his goal-scoring feats after joining Red Star from Vardar — most of the people familiar with his name know nothing of the country that produced him.

Pancev is currently with Internazionale in Italy and his performances, good or bad, sell newspapers in Macedonia.

The new Macedonian First Division began with 18 clubs and Vardar led after nine rounds followed by Pelister, Sloga, and Sileksand Metalurg.

Clubs are in desperate need of money after the old state sponsoring system collapsed. Some, like Metalurg and Sloga, adapted quickly to the new conditions, but many others, such as Balkan, are finding survival hard.

Fortunately unlike other states of former Yugoslavia, the fans in Macedonia are packing their soccer grounds.

CROATIA

SOCCER in Croatia still does not have the attendances and top players needed to make the first real Croatian League a success.

But there are many indications that soccer in this young state is moving in the right direction and that Croatian clubs will soon be able to take part in international events.

Former Yugoslav First Division clubs such as Hajduk, Hask-Gradjanski and Rijeka managed to save the core of their teams and to secure good managers.

These three clubs occupy the top of the Croatian ladder, followed closely by lesser-known Istra, Inker and Zagreb, compensating for their inexperience with very good organisation on and off the field.

Controversy surrounding referees also helped to arouse interest in the game. Clubs from central Croatia are convinced that the referees from the Dalmatian coast are inclined to favour clubs from that region.

Dalmatians, with their volatile temperament, are quick to respond with counter-accusations.

All this regional rivalry creates an explosive climate. This was the case in a match in Split between Hajduk and Zagreb, when Mateo Beusan, a referee from Dubrovnik, was at the centre of a controversy that filled the newspapers for weeks.

There have been few outstanding individual players but an important contribution was made by Muslims and Croats, who arrived from Bosnia-Hercegovina.

This is particularly true of Velez Mostar — almost all their players are now with Croatian clubs.

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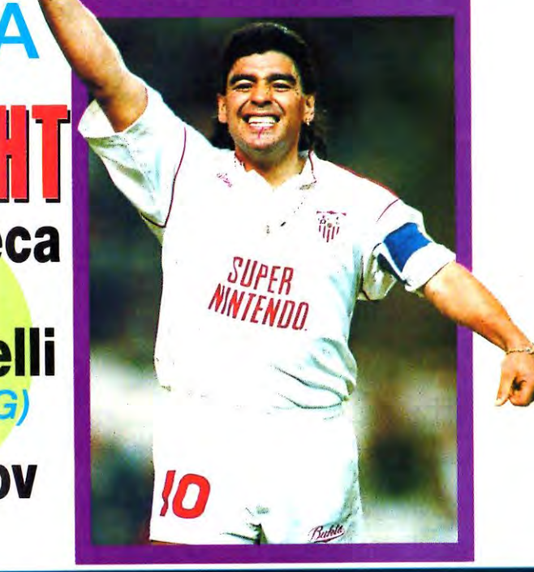

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Results

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Sep 11 = Papeete — WC Oceania qual
Tahiti 0
Australia 3 (Mori 2, Veart 44, Wade 59)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Sharp.
Tahiti: Heinus — Lupas, Raicha, Layton, Teuira — R Raumati, Etaeta, Thumot (Amaru 76), Rousseau — Deane (E Raumati 28), Temarii.
Australia: Zabica — Durakovic, Marth, Ivanovic, Tobin — Mori, Wade (Bernal 73), Tapai, Petersen — Veart, Edwards (Hasler 80).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Sep 12 = Suva — WC Oceania qual
Fiji 3 (Moceimereke 65, 69, 75)
Vanuatu 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,500.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Sep 13 = San Salvador — friendly
El Salvador 3 (Abrego 19, Rivera 50 pen, Vasquez 82)
Honduras 1 (Obando 7 pen)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 10,000.
El Salvador: R Garcia — Mortan, Trigueros, Carcamo, Abrego — C Castro*, Lazo (Mayen Meza), Rivera (Melendez), Ulloa — Palacios (Vasquez), Magico Gonzalez.
*C Castro and coach Ruiz both sent off.
Honduras: W Cruz — Martinez (Avila), Arzu, Castro, Williams*, Rocher (Funes) — Cruz*, Calix, Obando — Castillo (Soto), Suazo.
*Cruz and Williams both sent off.
● Match held to celebrate settlement of border dispute but three players were sent off (one from El Salvador, two from Honduras) as well as the El Salvador coach.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Sep 17 = San Pedro Sula — intl friendly
Honduras 1 (Suazo 57)
El Salvador 1 (G Rivera 16)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,320. **Ref:** Handal (Hon)
Honduras: Batista — Soto, Castro, Arzu, Anariba — Funes, Calix, Rochez, Obando — Castillo, Suazo.
El Salvador: R Garcia — Mojica, F Orellana, Mayen Meza, Abrego — C Castro*, Rivera, Vazquez, Ulloa — Orellana, Rosales.
*C Castro sent off.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Sep 19 = Suva — WC Oceania qual
Fiji 0
New Zealand 0
Att: 3,000. **Ref:** Lorenc (Aus)
Fiji: Boto — Tubi, Rokoqica, Manaan, Yusuf — Masilagi, Lomu, Delaf, Sami — Mocelmereke, Nawalu.
New Zealand: Gosling — Cofton, Dunford, Ironside, Gray — Coveney, Riley, McGarry. McClennan — Laus, Wright.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Sep 20 = Brisbane — WC Oceania qual
Australia 2 (Veart 11, Durakovic 64)
Tahiti 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Kouloki (Van)
Australia: Zabica — Gray, Tobin, Marth, Ivanovic, Durakovic — Mori, Petersen, Wade — Edwards, Veart (Brown 75).
Tahiti: Fassain — Layton, Lucas, Raioha, Teuira — R Ramauti, Temari, Gartien (Chavez 80) — Etaeta, Amaru (Rousseau 62), Thunot.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Sep 22 = Tegucigalpa — intl friendly
Honduras 5 (C Obando 48, Calix 53, 83, Suazo 59, Cruz 63)
Jamaica 1 (Winston Anglin 28)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,300. **Ref:** Nelson Calix (Hon)
Honduras: B Rivera — Williams, Castro, Yearwood, Anariba — Funes, Cruz, Rochez (Calix), Obando — Suazo (Avila), Castillo (Benneth).
Jamaica: Barret — Wilson, Smith, Brown, Ziadie — Anglin, Dennis, Davis, Palmer — Wright, Graham.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Sep 23 = Kosice — WC Euro gp 4
Czechoslovakia 4 (Nemecek 24, Kuka 85, 87, Dubovsky 89 pen)
Faroe Islands 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Cakar (Tur)
Czechoslovaka: Stajskal — Glonek, Suchopastek, Novotny, Mistr (Latal 82), Moravcik, Nemecek, Dubovsky, Nemec, Hapal (Timko 68), Kuka.
Faroes: Knudsen — J Jakobsen, Johannesen, T E Hansen, Justinussen, Simonsen, Dam, O Hasen (A Morkore 58), Jonsson, Reynheim, Muller (Arge 81).

Sep 23 = Riga — WC Euro gp 3
Latvia 0
Spain 0
Att: 60,000. **Ref:** Philippi (Lux)
Latvia: Korovayev — Shivlekov, Alexeyenko, V Ivanov, Gnedojs, Popkov (Ostafyev 70), Sprogis, Stradins, Bulders (Gilis 81), Linards, Glazov.
Spain: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Toni, Solozabal, Lopez, Vizcaino, Goikotxea, Fonseca (Alfonso 72), Bakero, Martin Vazquez, Alvaro (Amor 59).

Sep 23 = Vilnius — WC Euro gp 3
Lithuania 0
Denmark 0
Att: 9,500. **Ref:** Anghelov (Bul)
Lithuania: Martinkenas — Mazheikis, Sukristovas, Baltushnikas, Buzmakovas, Pankratjevas, Zhuta (Poderis 87), Zdancius, Tereshkinas, Baranauskas, Olshanskis.
Denmark: Schmeichel — L Olsen, Piechnik, Sivebaek, Christofte, H Larsen, J Jensen, Vilfort, B Laudrup, Elstrup, Christensen (Moller 80).

Sep 23 = Oslo — WC Euro gp 2
Norway 2 (Rekdal 9 pen, Sorloth 78)
Holland 1 (Bergkamp 10)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 19,998. **Ref:** Remy Harrel (Fra)
Norway: Thorstvedt — Nilsen, T Pedersen, Bratseth, Bjornebye, Halle (Strandli 60), Mykland, Ingebrigtsen, Rekdal, Sorloth (Flo 81), J I Jakobsen.
Holland: Menzo — Koeman, Blind, Silooy, De Boer — Van't Schip (Taument 81), Wouters (Kieft 85), Rijkaard, Rob Witschge — Bergkamp, Van Basten.

Sep 23 = Poznan — WC Euro gp 2
Poland 1 (Waldoch 33)
Turkey 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
Poland: Bako — Rzepka, Szewczyk, Lesiak, Waldoch, Czachowski, Brzeczek, R Warzycha, Araszkiewicz (Kowalczyk 61), Kosecki (Fedoruk 64), Juskowiak.
Turkey: Hayrettin — Recep (Aykut 74), Bulent, Gokhan, Ogun, Tugay, Hami, Riza, Hakan, Oguz (Mehmet 46), Orhan.

Sep 23 = Budapest — friendly
Hungary 0
Israel 0
Att: 3,000. **Ref:** Steindl (Aus).
Hungary: Balogh — Paling (Wukovics 73), Telek, Lorincz — Illes (Lipcsei 46), Nagy, Salloi, Balog (Horvath 69), Cseh (Duro 46) — Kiprich, Hamori.
Israel: Ginzburg — Avi Cohen, Kan Ben-Shimon, Klinger, Amar — Tal Banin, Bercovitz (A Harazi 46), Hazan, Nimny — Tikva (E Harazi 76), Zohar (Ravivo 46).

Sep 23 = Tunis/El-Menzah — friendly
Tunisia 1 (Hamrouni 16)
Algeria 1 (Meziane 39)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,000.

Sep 23 = Paranaval — friendly
Brazil 4 (Rai 22, 26, 41 pen, Renato 71)
Costa Rica 2 (Mayorga 38, Jiminez 53)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 18,430. **Ref:** Tito Rodrigues (Bra)
Brazil: Carlos — Luis Carlos Winck (Charles 46), Ronaldo, Valber, Roberto Carlos (Lira 46) — Axel (Luisinho 73), Junior (Palhinha 73), Rai — Muller (Almir 81), Renato (Edmundo 81), Elvelton (Zinho 46).
C Rica: Paul Mayorga (Hidalgo 46) — Arnaez, Ronaldo Gonzalez, Marchena, Berry, M Montero (Jiminez 46), Ramirez (Arguedas 46), Ilhama (Coronado 60), Benjamin Mayorga (Rowe 46), Richard Smith (Jara 46), Myers.

Sep 23 = Montevideo — friendly
Uruguay 0
Argentina 0
Att: 35,000. **Ref:** Banegas (Par)
Uruguay: Siboldi — Sanguinetti, Sanchez, Kanapkis, Cabrera — Matosas (Moran), Ostoloza, Miranda (Dorta), Zalazar — Peletti, Guerra.
Argentina: Islas — Basualdo, Vazquez, Caceres, Saldana — Cagna (Mancuso), Villareal, Marcico, Gorosito — Medina Bello, Acosta.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Sep 24 = San Pedro Sula — intl friendly
Honduras 7 (Obando 5, 19, 58, Benneth 15, Suazo 53, Avila 67, 76)
Jamaica 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 8,566.
Honduras: W Cruz — Castro, Yearwood, Martinez, Soto — Funes, Calix, Cruz, Obando — Suazo, Benneth.
Jamaica: Barret — Wilson, Smith, Dennis, Wilson II — Wright, Palmer, Graham, Davis — Hewit, Ziadule.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Sep 25 = Port Vila — WC Oceana qual
Vanuatu 0
Fiji 3 (Cama 15, Nawalu 33, 77)
HT: 0-1.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Sep 26 = Newcastle — WC Oceania qual
Australia 6 (Genc 4, Gray 60, Wade 67, Veart 83, Brown 85, Durakovic 88)
Solomon Islands 1 (Ashley 6)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 6,500.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Oct 4 = Libreville — intl friendly
Gabon 1 (Mbougha-Nze 4)
Chad 0
HT: 1-0.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

Oct 7 = Serravalle — WC Euro gp 2
San Marino 0
Norway 2 (J I Jakobsen 7, Flo 19)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 1,187. **Ref:** Anzuategui (Spa).
San Marino: Benedettini — Guerra, Gobbi, Gennari, Binini, Francini (B Muccioli 84), Manzaroli, M Mazza, Matteoni, Zanotti, P Mazza (Bacciocchi 25).
Norway: Thorstvedt — Bratseth, Nilsen, T Pedersen, Halle (Bjornbye 46), J I Jakobsen, Leonhardsen (Ingebrigtsen 68), Mykland, Rekdal, Flo, Sorloth.

Oct 7 = Reykjavik — WC Euro gp 5
Iceland 0
Greece 1 (Tsaluhidis 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,350. **Ref:** King, sub Burge, 32 min (both Wal).
Iceland: Birkir Kristinsson — Bergsson, Kristjan Jonsson, Gudjohnsen, Marteinsson (Margeirsson 29), Runar Kristinsson, Baldur Bjarnasson (Hakonarsson 71), Arnar Gretarsson, Orlygsson, Sigurdur Gretarsson, Sverrisson.
Greece: Mirtsos — Apostolakis, Kolitsidakis, Manolas, Kalitzakis*, Papaioannou (Mitropulos 55), Tsiantakis, Tsaluhidis, Dimitriadis (Francheskos 69), Nioblias, Donis.
*Kalitzakis sent off, 77 min.

Oct 7 = Stockholm — WC Euro gp 6
Sweden 2 (Dahlin 56, Pettersson 76)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,625. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol)
Sweden: Eriksson — Erlingmark, P Andersson, Bjorklund, Ljung — Limpar, Thern, Schwarz, Pettersson — Ingesson, Dahlin (K Andersson 87).
Bulgaria: Mikhailov — D Mladenov, Kiriakov, T Ivanov, Tzvetanov — E Kostadinov (I Yordanov 83), Sirakov, Stoilov, Z Yankov — Balakov, Penev.

Oct 7 = Limassol — intl friendly
Cyprus 3 (Hadjilukas 52, Costa 60, D Ioannou 74)
Malta 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Georgiou (Cyp)
Cyprus: Christofi (Onisiforou 70) — Costa, Constantinou (Panagi 68), Floros (Kalotheou 46), Yiangudakis, Pittas — Charalambous (D Ioannou 46), Larkou (Hadjulukas 46), Savides (Andreou 68) — Papavasiliou, Sotiriou (G Ioannou 46).
Malta: Cluett — S Vella, Galea, Brinkat, Camilleri — Laferla, Busuttil, R Vella (Souta 66), Salimba (Zerafa 63) — Gregory, Sultana (Carombou 88).

Oct 7 = Los Angeles — intl friendly
Mexico 2 (De la Torre 32 pen, Hermosillo 71)
El Salvador 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Jay (US)
Mexico: Campos — Ambriz, Suarez, Ramirez Perales, Munuz — Espana (Ordiales 82), De la Torre (Bernal 66), Espinoza (Garcia 75), Coyote — Hermosillo, Uribe (Alves Zague 63).
El Salvador: Garcia — Abrego (Mojica 74), Mayen Meza, Trigueros, Estrada — Castro, Carcamo, Lazo (Á Vazquez 74), Palacios (R Vazquez 89) — Diaz (Rivera 46), Magico Gonzalez.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Oct 9 = Tlemcen — WC African qual gp A
Algeria 3 (Tasfaout 40, 87, Meziane 70)
Burundi 1 (Boudjoubouene 89 pen)
HT: 1-0.

Oct 9 = Greenboro, NC — intl friendly
United States 0
Canada 0
Att: 2,097. **Ref:** Dias (US)
US: Meola — Clavijo, Balboa, Lapper, Caligiuri (DeBrito 64), Henderson (Allnutt 71), Quinn (Michallik 46), Murray (Jones 65), Perez, Vermes (Kinnear 46), Harbor.
Canada: Forrest — Yallop (Fletcher 62), Sweeney, Dasovic, Miller, Sarantopulos, Limniatis, Valentine, Mitchell, Bunbury (Aunger 77), Catliff (Hooper 65).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Oct 10 = Lagos — WC African qual gp D
Nigeria 4 (Owobokiri 33, Siasia 56, Yekini 67, 89)
South Africa 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Odahey (Gha)

Oct 10 = Abidjan — WC African qual gp E
Ivory Coast 6 (A Traore 10, 17 pen, Ben Salah 14, Tiehi 65, Kassy Kouadio 70)
Botswana 0
HT: 3-0.

Oct 10 = Tahiti — WC Oceania qual
Tahiti 4 (Temarii 8 pen, Rousseau 18, Gatien 43, 88)
Solomon Islands 2 (Vato 60, Suri 90)
HT: 3-0.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Oct 11 = Kinshasa — WC African qual gp B
Zaire 4
Liberia 2
Att: 92,000.

Oct 11 — WC African qual gp B
Swaziland v Cameroon — *postponed*

Oct 11 = Cairo — WC African qual gp C
Egypt 1 (Hassan Hossam 63)
Angola 0
HT: 0-0.

Oct 11 = Harare — WC African qual gp C
Zimbabwe 1 (Ndlovu 67)
Togo 0
HT: 0-0.

Oct 11 — WC African qual gp D
Congo v Libya — *postponed*

Oct 11 = Casablanca —
WC African qual gp F
Morocco 5 (Chaouch 2, 29, Fertout 14, Lashaf 40, Samadi 50)
Ethiopia 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Rachid Mejiba (Alg).
● Abandoned at 55 minutes, Ethiopia having suffered five injuries and not having any substitutes.

Oct 11 = Tunis — WC African qual gp F
Tunisia 5 (F Rouissi 16 pen, Mahjoubi 29, Hamrouni 40, 51, A Sellimi 77)
Benin 1 (Sacramento 43)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Pairetto (Ita)

Oct 11 = Libreville — WC African qual gp G
Gabon 3 (Nzamba 12, 24, Aubame 75)
Mozambique 1 (Sardina 17)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Nascimento (Ang)

Oct 11 = Antananarivo —
WC African qual gp H
Madagascar 3 (Tipeh 11, Hary 44, Setra 58)
Namibia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Sohan (Mauritius)

Oct 11 = Lusaka — WC African qual gp H
Zambia 2 (Johnson Bwalya 18, K Mutale 29)
Tanzania 0
HT: 2-0.

Oct 11 — WC African qual gp I
Mali *walkover* v Guinea

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

Oct 14 = Glasgow/Ibrox —
WC Euro gp 1
Scotland 0
Portugal 0
Att: 22,583. **Ref:** Forstinger (Aut).
Scotland: Goram — Malpas, Boyd, McCall, Whyte, Levein, Gallacher (McClair 33), McStay, McCoist, McAllister, Collins (Durrant 71).
Portugal: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto I, Helder, Veloso, Couto, Oceano, Vitor Paneira, Semedo (Figo 53), Domingos, Futre, Andre.

Oct 14 = Cagliari — WC Euro gp 1
Italy 2 (Baggio 83, Eranio 89)
Switzerland 2 (Ohrel 17, Chapuisat 21)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 34,000. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den).
Italy: Marchegiani — Tassotti, Di Chiara, Eranio, Costacurta, Lanna, Lentini, Donadoni (Albertini 71), Vialli, Baggio, Evani (Bianchi 48).
Switzerland: Pascolo — Hottiger, Quentin, Egli, Geiger, Bregy, Sutter, Ohrel (Piffaretti 56), Knup (Beat Sutter 89), Sforza, Chapuisat.

Oct 14 = Wembley — WC Euro gp 2
England 1 (Platt 55)
Norway 1 (Rekdal 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 51,441. **Ref:** Brizio (Mex).
England: Woods — Dixon (Palmer 89), Walker, Adams, Pearce — Batty, Ince, Platt, Gascoigne — Wright (Merson 69), Shearer.
Norway: Thorstvedt — Nilsen, Bratseth, Tore Pedersen (Berg 19), Bjornebye, Halle, J I Jakobsen, Ingebrigtsen, Mykland (Flo 78), Rekdal, Sorloth.

Oct 14 = Rotterdam — WC Euro gp 2
Holland 2 (Van Vossen 43, 46)
Poland 2 (Kosecki 18, Kowalczyk 20)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Pezella (Ita).
Holland: Menzo — Van Aerle, R Koeman, Rijkaard (Fraser 80), Jonk, Wouters, Numan (Vanenburg 39), Rob Witschge, Bergkamp, Van Basten, Van Vossen.
Poland: Bako — Lesiak, Szewczyk, Kozminski, Adamczuk, Czachowski (Rzepka 39), Brzeczek, Kowalczyk (Smolarek 67), R Warzycha, Kosecki, Ziober.

Oct 14 = Belfast/Windsor Park —
WC Euro gp 3
N Ireland 0
Spain 0
Att: 9,500. **Ref:** Krug (Ger).
N Ireland: Wright — Fleming, Worthington, Taggart, McDonald, Donaghy, Black (Morrow 61), Kevin Wilson, Clarke, Jimmy Quinn, Hughes.
Spain: Zubizarreta — Ferrer, Toni*, Solozabal, Lopez, Hierro, Amor, Michel, Claudio (Guardiola 63), Martin Vazquez, Manolo (Alfonso 60).
*Toni sent off, 82min.

Oct 14 = Copenhagen — WC Euro gp 3
Denmark 0
Rep Ireland 0
Att: 40,100. **Ref:** Wojcik (Pol).
Denmark: Schmeichel — L Olsen, Piechnik, Sivebaek, Heintze, Rieper, Jensen, Vilfort, Henrik Larsen, Brian Laudrup, Povlsen (Bent Christensen 77).
Rep Ireland: Bonner — Irwin, Phelan, Moran, Kernaghan, Keane, Townsend, Houghton (Kelly 73), Quinn, Aldridgew, McGoldrick.

Oct 14 = Nicosia — WC Euro gp 4
Cyprus 0
Wales 1 (Hughes 51)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Vagner (Hun).
Cyprus: M Christofi — Costa, Pittas (Hadjilukas 71), Constantinou, Nicolaou, Yiangudakis, D Ioannou, Charalmbous, Sotiriou (Y Ioannou 59), Papavasiliou, Savides.
Wales: Southall — Phillips, Bowen, Blackmore, Young, Symons, Horne, Saunders, Rush, Hughes, Speed.

Oct 14 = Brussels/Parc Astrid —
WC Euro gp 4
Belgium 1 (Smidts 27)
Romania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Pairett (Ita).
Belgium: Preud'homme — Medved, Albert, Grun, Smidts — Boffin, Staelens, Van der Elst, Scifo — Degryse, Czerniatynski (Wilmots 69).
Romania: Stelea — Petrescu, Selymes, Mihali, Lupescu, Belodedici, Munteanu, Sabau, Dumitrescu (Badea 78), Lacatus, Hagi.

Oct 14 = Moscow — WC Euro gp 5
Russia 1 (Yuran 64)
Iceland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Spassov (Bul).
Russia: Cherchesov — Khlestov, Onopko, Kolotovkin, Shalimov, Dobrovolski, Karpin, Ledlakhof (Tatarchuk 46), Yuran (Kolivanov 76), Kiriakov.
Iceland: Kristinsson — Marteinsson, Kristjan Jonsson, Valsson, A Greterasosn, Kristinsson (Hokomarsson 88), Bergsson, Orlygsson, Margeirsson, Gudjohnsen (Bjarnasson 76), S Gretarssson.

Oct 14 = Paris/Parc des Princes —
WC Euro gp 6
France 2 (Papin 3, Cantona 77)
Austria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 39,186. **Ref:** Zhuc (Rus).
France: Martini — Sauzee — Boli, Casoni, Deschamps, Sassus, Fournier (Gnako 63), Durand — Gravelaine (Vahirua 73), Papin, Cantona.
Austria: Wohlfahrt — Feiersinger, Streiter, Zsak, Wazinger, Stoger (Pfeifenberger 84), Artner, Herzog, Baur, Schinkels (Ogris 46), Polster.

Oct 14 = Dresden — friendly
Germany 1 (Voller 58)
Mexico 1 (Hermosillo 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Marko (Cze).
Germany: Kopke — Thon — Buchwald, Helmer — Hassler, Scholz, Matthaus, Effenberg, Reinhardt — Voller (Kirsten 64), Riedle (Klinsmann 46).
Mexico: Campos — Ambriz, Suarez, Munoz, Espana — Coyote (Alberto Garcia 74), Ramirez, De la Torre (Alves 63), Espinosa (Ordiales 78) — Uribe, Luis Garcia (Gutierrez 63).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Oct 16 = Riyadh —
Intercontinental Cup, semi-final
Saudi Arabia 3 (Al-Bishi 48 pen, Al-Thunyan 74, Al-Muwalid 84)
United States 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Ulisses da Silva (Bra)
S Arabia: Al-Otaibi — Al-Dosari, Al-Roomi, Al-Wi, Amin, Al-Bishi, Al-Muwalid, Al-Thunyan, Al-Jaber (Mehalei 72), Owairan, Al-Dosari.
US: Meola — Clavijo, Balboa, Lapper, Harkes, Quinn*, Henderson (Harbor 62), Murray (Caligiuri 46), Ramos, Perez, Wegerle.
*Quinn sent off, 81min.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

Oct 16 = Riyadh —
Intercontinental Cup, semi-final
Argentina 4 (Batistuta 2, 10, Altamirano 67, Acosta 81)
Ivory Coast 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Jamal Sharif (Syr)
Argentina: Goycochea — Vazquez, Altamirano, Basualdo, Ruggeri, Redondo, Villareal (Cagna 75), Simeone, Rodriguez (Acosta 67), Caniggia, Batistuta.
Ivory Coast: Alian — Kouame, Sekana, Dominique*, Lassina, Gadji, Kassy (Nagueu 56), Maguy, Sie, Ben Salah (Beugre 84), Traore.
* Dominique sent off, 51min.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Oct 18 = Yaounde — WC African gp B
Cameroon 5 (Tchami 16, Djappa 23, Mbarga 66, Tiki 84, Fiala 89)
Swaziland 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,000.

Oct 18 = Hamilton —
WC CONCACAF qual
Bermuda 1 (Lightbourne 77)
El Salvador 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 6,000.

Oct 18 = Kingston —
WC CONCACAF qual
Jamaica 1 (Hector Wright 70)
Canada 1 (Dale Mitchell 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19

Oct 19 = Riyadh —
Intercontinental Cup, third place match
United States 5 (Balboa 12, Jones 31, Wynalda 56, Murray 67, 83)
Ivory Coast 2 (Traore 16, Sie 76)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 9,500. **Ref:** Rodrigo Segueira (C Rica)
US: Meola — Clavijo, Balboa, Lapper, Caligiuri, Michallik, Henderson (Jones 27), Murray, Perez, Wynalda, Vermes (Kinnear 73).
Ivory Coast: Alian — Kouame, Brahima, Rufin, Sekana, Ben Salah, Traore, Nagueu, Beugre (Kassy 63), Sie, Lassina (Gadji 46).

OTHER INTERNATIONALS

Sep 3 (Tegucigalpa): **Honduras 0, Atlante (Mex) 0.**
Sep 8 (Burgos): **Spain U-21 0, England U-21 1** (Anderton 80).
Sep 23 (Zurich): **FC Zurich 0, Italy 2** (Vialli 40, 44).

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Gp 1 — Sep 8 *(Sursee)*: **Switzerland 2** (Chrois 3, Meier 58), **Scotland 0.**
Gp 1 — Oct 13 *(Perth)*: **Scotland 0, Portugal 0. Oct 15** *(Cremona)*: **Italy 1** (Vieri 53), **Switzerland 0.**
Gp 2 — Sep 8 *(Lillestrom)*: **Norway 3** (Aase 10, Strandli 25, Haaland 80), **San Marino 2** (Ugolini 19, 67). **Sep 22** *(Rawicz)*: **Poland 3, Turkey 0;** *(Fredrikstad)*: **Norway 1, Holland 0.**
Gp 3 — Oct 13 *(Copenhagen/Osterbro)*: **Denmark 3** (Kristensen 14, Moller 35, 52), **Rep of Ireland 2** (Dempsey 5, McGrath 84).
Gp 4 — Oct 13 *(Seraing)*: **Belgium 1** (Crasson 89), **Romania 0,** *(Larnaca/ Papadopulos)*: **Cyprus** 2 (Marios 64, Kiriakos 84), **Wales 4** (Bowen 34, Blake 39, 50, 75).
Gp 5 — Sep 8 *(Esch-sur-Alzette)*: **Luxembourg 0, Hungary 0. Oct 7** *(Reykjavik)*: **Iceland 1** (T Gudjonsson 81 pen), **Greece 3** (Mahlas 4, Kostic 73, 88).
Oct 13 *(Moscow)*: **Russia 5, Iceland 0.**
Gp 6 — Sep 8 *(Tammisaari)*: **Finland 1** (Sumiala 13), **Sweden 0.** *(Sofia)*: **Bulgaria 0, France 1** (Nouma 43). **Oct 6** *(Halmstad)*: **Sweden 6** (H Larsson 29, 40, 54, A Bild 65, 86, Jeglertz 89), **Bulgaria 0.**
Oct 14 *(Beauvais)*: **France 6** (Ouedec 8 pen, Pedros 12, Nouma 33, Dugarry 41, 55, Vairelles 77), **Austria 1** (Thetis og 44).

EURO LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

AUSTRIA Weekend

Vorwarts Steyr 0, Rapid Wien 0.
Att: 4,000.
Wiener SC 2 (Hockmaier 25, Kartalija 58), **VfB Modling 1** (Mader 45). **Att:** 3,000.
Linzer ASK 1 (Dantlinger 55), **Austria Salzburg 3** (Lipa 34, Jurcevic 67, 77).
Att: 4,000.
Admira Wacker 3 (Marschall 6, Messlender 49, Bacher 83), **St Polten 0.**
Att: 5,000.
Austria Wien 2 (Fridrikas 7, 18), **Wacker Innsbruck 2** (Danek 10, Kirchler 28).
Att: 8,000.
Sturm Graz 3 (Calo 37, 51, Deveric 48), **Stahl Linz 3** (Pozdniakov 3, Gager 75, Ivsic 79). **Att:** 3,000.

BELGIUM Weekend

Club Brugge 1 (Vanderheyden 83), **Charleroi 0. Att:** 10,000.
Anderlecht 0, Beveren 0. Att: 12,000.
Standard 2 (Bettagno 53, Wilmots 85), **RWDM 1** (Van Ankeren 61). **Att:** 12,000.
Genk 1 (Busuttil 67), **Cercle Bruges 1** (Weber 15). **Att:** 4,500.
Gent 5 (Schepens 46, Dauwen 57, Medved 67, Viscaal 69, 77), **Liege 0. Att:** 12,000.
Lierse 2 (Simmes 58, 60), **Mechelen 1** (Eijkelkamp 88). **Att:** 9,000.
Waregem 1 (Vidmar 49), **Antwerp 1** (Czerniatynski 21). **Att:** 5,000.
Boom 0, Lommel 3 (Mukanya 49, Cannaerts 58, N'Ganzadi 86). **Att:** 3,5000.
Ekeren 3 (Deedene 14, Herreman 70, Claessen 72), **Lokeren 1** (Meszaros 79). **Att:** 2,000.

ENGLAND Weekend

Arsenal 0, Blackburn Rovers 1 (Newell 71). **Att:** 28,643.
Chelsea 2 (Harford 2, Townsend 28), **Norwich City 3** (Robins 46, 74, Phillips 80). **Att:** 16,880.
Crystal Palace 2 (Armstrong 64, 65), **Oldham 2** (Olney 19, Sharp 77).
Att: 11,224.
Everton 0, Manchester Utd 2 (McClair 29, Bruce pen 76). **Att:** 30,002.
Ipswich Town 2 (Stockwell 14, 48), **Wimbledon 1** (Holdsworth 27).
Att: 13,333.
Manchester City 0, Middlesbrough 1 (Flitcroft o.g. 42). **Att:** 25,244.
Nottm. Forest 1 (Bannister 87), **Sheffield Weds 2** (Warhurst 39, Hyde 57).
Att: 19,420.
Sheffield Utd 1 (Littlejohn 4), **Liverpool 0. Att:** 20,632.
Southampton 1 (Le Tissier 12), **QPR 2** (Sinton 54, Channing 57). **Att:** 14,125.
Leeds Utd 1 (Hodge 80), **Aston Villa 1** (Parker 19). **Att:** 27,815.

FRANCE Weekend

Metz 1 (Zitelli 46), **Caen 0. Att:** 11,901.
Le Havre 0, Sochaux 0. Att: 7,000.
Nimes 1 (Vercruysse pen 23), **Marseille 3** (Boksic 34, 40, Pele pen 54). **Att:** 21,188.
Lens 1 (Sirakov 54), **Bordeaux 2** (Zidane 29, Salaun 84). **Att:** 15,000.
Auxerre 1 (Guerreiro 90),
St Etienne 0. Att: 14,000.
AS Monaco 0, Montpellier 0. Att: 5,000.
Toulon 1 (Pineda 25), **Nantes 3** (Vulic 45, Markelele 56, Loko 68). **Att:** 5,000.
Lyon 2 (Gava 24, Debah pen 83),
Strasbourg 2 (Keller 20, 66). **Att:** 17,292.
Toulouse 0, Lille 0. Att: 8,032.
Paris SG 2 (Weah 46, Calderaro 79),
Valenciennes 0. Att: 25,000.

HOLLAND Weekend

Fortuna Sittard 0, FC Twente 2 (Paus 3, Hoogma 27). **Att:** 3,200.
PSV 7 (Popescu 31, 75, Kieft 45, Ellerman 50, Vanenburg 52, Numan 53, Kalusha 89), **Den Bosch 0. Att:** 23,950.
Sparta 0, MVV 0. Att: 3,000.
GA Eagles 1 (Schenning 35),
Feyenoord 1 (Kiprich 90). **Att:** 12,000.
RKC 0, Vitesse 0. Att: 2,500.
SVV/Dordtrecht 0, **Willem II 2** (Sylla 10, Van Geel 27). **Att:** 1,588.
Utrecht 1 (Oosterhuis 68), **Groningen 0. Att:** 8,000.
Roda JC v Cambuur — *postponed*
Volendam v Ajax — *postponed*

ITALY Weekend

Ancona 2 (Ermini 37, Detari 42),
Sampdoria 3 (Jugovic 23, 59, Mazzarano o.g. 75). **Att:** 12,500.
Brescia 0, Torino 0. Att: 10,000.
Foggia 2 (Bresciani 16, 44), **Napoli 4** (Fonseca 11, 89, Zola 39, Careca 59).
Att: 22,000.
Genoa 0, AS Roma 0. Att: 26,700.
Internazionale 3 (Bianchi 7, Bergomi 16, Shalimov 90), **Cagliari 1** (Oliveira 51).
Att: 50,000.
Juventus 4 (Kohler 23, Moller 41, 85, Vialli 75), **Atalanta 1** (Ganz). **Att:** 40,000.
Lazio 2 (Signori pen 21, Doll 34),
Fiorentina 2 (Batistuta 9, 72). **Att:** 50,000.
Parma 3 (Grun 4, Asprilla 45, Melli 68),
Udinese 1 (Balbo. **Att:** 24,000.
Pescara 4 (Allegri 1, Costacurta o.g. 11, Baresi o.g. 14, Massara 23), **AC Milan 5** (Maldini 3, Lentini 5, Van Basten 37, 39, 72). **Att:** 25,000.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Maritimo 7, Gil Vicente 1
Estoril 1, Beira-Mar 0
Belenenses 3, Vit. Guimaraes 0
Pacos Ferreira 2, Chaves 0
Tirsense 3, FC Porto 1
Salgueiros 3, Boavista 1
Famalicao 1, Benfica 0
Sp. Braga 0, Sporting Lisbon 0
Espinho 1, Farense 1

SCOTLAND Weekend

Airdrie 1 (Coyle 85), **Dundee Utd 2** (Ferguson 29, 65). **Att:** 3,000.
Celtic 2 (Wdowczyk 11, McStay 58),
Hibernian 3 (Wright 41, Jackson pen 65, Evans 83). **Att:** 25,139.
Dundee 2 (Dodds 45, Vrto 89),
Motherwell 1 (O'Donnell 58). **Att:** 3,797.
Hearts 1 (Robertson

CONTINUED

Auxerre 2 (Vahirua 2, Verlat 33), **Lille 0. Att:** 4,500.
Le Havre **0**, St Etienne **1** (Passi 23). **Att:** 8,460.
Nimes 1 (Monczuk 23), **Sochaux 1** (Garande 88). **Att:** 10,273.
AS Monaco 3 (Gnako 33, 69, Klinsmann 39), **Nantes 1** (Ferri 90). **Att:** 5,000.
Toulon 1 (Pineda 80), **Caen 1** (Gravelaine 29). **Att:** 4,000.
Bordeaux 1 (Zidane 55), **Strasbourg 1** (Marcio Santos o.g. 60). **Att:** 20,000.
Lyon 2 (Ngotty 15, Garde pen 22), **Montpellier 1** (Der Zakarian 14). **Att:** 15,544.
Metz 0, Valenciennes 0. Att: 13,126.
Toulouse 2 (Hernandez 34, Debeve 51), **Paris SG 2** (Weah 80, Ricardo 83). **Att:** 15,000.

GERMANY Weekend

Saarbrucken 1 (Kostner pen 84), **Dynamo Dresden 1** (Honerbach o.g. 12). **Att:** 20,000.
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Rummenigge 83), **Bayern Munich 2** (Helmer 31, Kreuzer 61). **Att:** 41,800.
Borussia Mg. 1 (Dahlin 30), **Koln 2** (Rudy 25, Ordenewitz 54). **Att:** 32,000.
VfB Stuttgart 3 (Strunz 45, F. Walter 69, Strehmel 89), **Kaiserslautern 1** (M. Wagner 71). **Att:** 30,000.
Werder Bremen 0, Eintracht Frankfurt 0. Att: 20,000.
Wattenscheid 2 (Prinzen 34, Fink 59), **Hamburg SV 2** (Bester 61, Letchkov 78). **Att:** 9,000.
Karlsruher SC 1 (Krieg 30), **VfL Bochum 0. Att:** 16,000.
Bayer Leverkusen 6 (Hapal 8, A. Muller o.g. 20, Foda 58, Scholz 60, Kirsten 73, Thorn 89), **Schalke 1** (Anderrugge pen 64). **Att:** 23,900.
Nurnberg 2 (Brunner 63, Dorfner 85), **Bayer Uerdingen 0. Att:** 24,200.

HOLLAND Weekend

Willem II 2 (Van Geel pen 23, pen 80), **GA Eagles 1** (Boere pen 6). **Att:** 6,000.
MVV 1 (Reijners 11), **PSV 5** (Romario 9, 50, 90, Vanenburg 61, Ellerman 77). **Att:** 10,000.
Den Bosch 0, Volendam 5 (De Freitas 39, 89, Berghuis 65, Reiziger 83, Van Loom 85). **Att:** 2,227.
Ajax 4 (De Boer 34, Pettersson 41, Bergkamp 69, Kreek 76), **Roda JC 2** (Hofstede 11, Trost 85). **Att:** 18,801.
Cambuur 0, RKC 2 (Brands pen 29, Van Aerde 66). **Att:** 6,000.
Vitesse 5 (Van Arum 41, 45, 54, Van den Brom 77, Loeffen 81), **Fortuna Sittard 0. Att:** 3,946.
FC Twente 5 (Paus 27, Zwijnenberg 65, Polley 73, 89, Kool 78), **Utrecht 1** (Van der Net 50). **Att:** 7,500.
Groningen 3 (Van Duren 30, Roossien 42, Gonesh 68), **SVV/Dordrecht 0. Att:** 11,251.
Feyenoord 2 (Fraser 8, Kiprich 23), **Sparta 2** (Bubberman 38, De Getrouwe 44). **Att:** 25,191.

ITALY Weekend

Ancona 1 (Detari 60), **Napoli 1** (Fonseca 5). **Att:** 13,530.
Atalanta 2 (Ganz 56, Bordin 68), **Cagliari 1** (Francescoli 72). **Att:** 20,000.
Foggia 1 (Petrescu 77), **Udinese 0. Att:** 10,000.
Internazionale 2 (Shalimov 80, Battistini 87), **Fiorentina 2** (Batistuta 51, 84). **Att:** 55,000.
Juventus 1 (Moller 16),
AS Roma 1 (Aldair 20. **Att:** 49,501.
Lazio 1 (Gregucci 58), **Genoa 1** (Padovano 79). **Att:** 54,000.
Parma 2 (Osio 24, Cuoghi 41),
Brescia 0. Att: 23,300.
Pescara 2 (Borgonovo 88, 90), **Torino 2** (Scifo 14, Aguilera 39). **Att:** 19,000.
Sampdoria v AC Milan — *postponed.*

PORTUGAL Weekend

Estoril 0, Gil Vicente 0
Belenenses 1, Maritimo 0
Pacos Ferreira 4, Beira-Mar 0
Tirsense 2, Vit. Guimaraes 0
Salgueiros 1, Chaves 1
Famalicao 0, FC Porto 3
Sp. Braga 2, Boavista 1
Espinho 0, Benfica 3
Farense 0, Sporting Lisbon

SCOTLAND Midweek

Skol (League) Cup Semi-Finals
Rangers 3, St. Johnstone 1
Celtic 0, Aberdeen 1

Weekend

Airdrie 1 (Coyle 15), **Hearts 0. Att:** 6,000.
Celtic 1 (Payton 47), **Partick Thistle 2** (Shaw 40, 85). **Att:** 21,486.
Dundee Utd 0, Rangers 4 (Steven 15, Huistra 21, 75, McCoist 70). **Att:** 13,515.
Falkirk 1 (Sloan 37), **Motherwell 0. Att:** 4,268.
Hibernian 0, Dundee 0. Att: 7,307.
St Johnstone 0, Aberdeen 3 (Shearer 48, 51, Paatelainen 49). **Att:** 7,320.

SPAIN Weekend

Osasuna 2 (Merino 8, Pascual 22), **Valencia 2** (Roberto 28, Eloy 65). **Att:** 10,000.
Cadiz 1 (Arteaga 48), **Atletico Madrid 1** (Manolo 66). **Att:** 10,000.
Oviedo 2 (Carlos pen 49, Jankovic 54), **Espanol 2** (Fonseca 45, Escaich 86). **Att:** 12,000.
Rayo Vallecano 0, Real Zaragoza 0. Att: 10,000.
Celta 1 (Gudelj 34), **Athletic Bilbao 0. Att:** 22,000.
Sevilla 3 (Suker 15, 64, Bango 41),
Logrones 0. Att: 40,000.
Real Sociedad 0, La Coruna 2 (Claudio 46, Aldana 84). **Att:** 15,000.
Real Madrid 3 (Alfonso 53, Michel pen 55, Butragueno 90), **Albacete 0. Att:** 50,000.
Tenerife 0, Sporting Gijon 2 (Muniz 51, Ivan 67). **Att:** 22,000.
Barcelona 4 (Beguiristain 3, Laudrup 13, Nakero 22, Stoichkov 53), **Burgos 1** (Balint pen 44). **Att:** 80,000.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

Sion 0, FC Zurich 0. Att: 8,000.
Young Boys 2 (Streun 31, Christensen 90), **FC Aarau 0. Att:** 5,000.
Chiasso 1 (Macula 60), **Servette 2** (Renato 11, 38). **Att:** 2,000.
Bulle 2 (Vernier 51, Magnin 81),
Lugano 0. Att: 1,500.
St. Gallen 2 (Ratinho 49, Estay pen 67), **Lausanne 3** (La Placa 23, Fink 37, 46). **Att:** 6,500.
Grasshoppers 1 (Kozle pen 79),
Neuchatel 1 (Smajic 86). **Att:** 3,900.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

AUSTRIA Weekend

Austria Salzburg 2 (Sabitzer 77, Reinmayr 90), **Vorwarts Steyr 1** (Heraf 25). **Att:** 9,000.
Linzer ASK 1 (A. Ogris 43), **Wiener SC 1** (Janeschitz 74). **Att:** 2,000.
Rapid Wien 2 (Fjortoft 56, Blizenec 85),
Admira Wacker 1 (Ljung 32). **Att:** 4,000.
VfB Modling 0, Austria Wien 3 (Aigner 9, Zsak 38, Hasenhuttl 84). **Att:** 3,000.
St. Polten 3 (Vastic 38, Milewskij 56, Gussnig 70), **Sturm Graz 2** (Wetl 45, Deveric 87). **Att:** 3,000.
Wacker Innsbruck 3 (Danek 17, Wazinger 36, Hortnagl 74), **Stahl Linz 0. Att:** 4,000.

BELGIUM Weekend

RWDM 1 (Lorincz 51), **Charleroi 1** (Malbasa 23). **Att:** 5,000.
Liege 2 (Arnold 49, Ikpeba 72), **Standard 3** (Vervoort 4, Cruz 36, Van Rooy pen 67). **Att:** 22,000.
Beveren 2 (Essende 1, Boonen 46),
Ekeren 0. Att: 4,500.
Genk 1 (Busutil 88), **Anderlecht 3** (Degryse 22, Crasson 23, Van Vossen 61). **Att:** 20,000.
Mechelen 1 (Bartholomeeussen 4),
Boom 0. Att: 6,000.
Antwerp 2 (Severeyns 46, 49), **Lommel 0. Att:** 5,000.
Cercle Bruges 5 (Karacic 30, Soenens 60, Cooreman 67, Weber 89, 90),
Lierse 1 (Snoeckx 70). **Att:** 4,000.
Waregem 5 (Desloover 19, Descamps 25, Vidmar 26, Abeels 59, Teppers 64),
Gent 1 (Medved 75). **Att:** 10,000.
Lokeren 0, Club Brugge 1 (Staelens 2). **Att:** 8,000.

ENGLAND Midweek

Arsenal 1 (Wright 19),
Manchester City 0. Att: 21,504.

Weekend

Arsenal 2 (Merson 10, Wright 85),
Chelsea 1 (Wise 78). **Att:** 27,780.
Blackburn 7 (Wegerle 8, 32, Sherwood 27, Shearer 43, 76, Cowans 63, Ripley 70),
Norwich 1 (Newman 39). **Att:** 16,312.
Coventry City 2 (Pearce 7, Gallacher 18),
Crystal Palace 2 (Coleman 9, McGoldrick 38). **Att:** 11,808.
Ipswich Town 4 (Kiwomya 25, Wark 36, pen 44, Dozzell 70), **Leeds Utd 2** (Chapman 55, Speed 64). **Att:** 21,200.
Liverpool 1 (Hutchison 80),
Sheffield Weds 0. Att: 35,785.
Manchester City 2 (Holden 19, Simpson 64), **Nottm Forest 2** (McKinnon 56, Pearce 83). **Att:** 22,571.
Middlesbrough 1 (Slaven 59),
Manchester Utd 1 (Bruce pen 44). **Att:** 24,172.
QPR 4 (Holloway 56, Wilkins 62, Penrice 66, 76), **Tottenham 1** (Sheringham 27). **Att:** 19,845.
Sheffield Utd 2 (Whitehouse 4, Littlejohn 26), **Southampton 0. Att:** 15,842.
Wimbledon 2 (Newhouse 34, Clarke 90),
Aston Villa 3 (Saunders 6, 30, Atkinson 78). **Att:** 6,849.
Oldham Ath 1 (Jobson 8), **Everton 0. Att:** 13,013.

FRANCE Weekend

Nantes 1 (Ferri 20), **Bordeaux 0. Att:** 29,000.
Marseille 1 (Deschamps 75),
AS Monaco 0. Att: 35,000.
St Etienne 0, Lyon 0. Att: 41,970.
Sochaux 2 (Clement 76, Robert 21),
Toulon 1 (Collot 11). **Att:** 3,000.
Valenciennes 1 (Burruchaga pen 45),
Toulouse 1 (Matrisciano o.g. 74). **Att:** 10,523.
Strasbourg 1 (Leboeuf 50), **Nimes 1** (Monczuk 76). **Att:** 16,556.
Lille 0, Lens 0. Att: 12,000.
Montpellier 1 (Pickeu 3), **Auxerre 0. Att:** 10,000.
Caen 3 (Gravelaine 24, Dangbeto 40, Paille pen 82), **Le Havre 3** (Rio pen 21, Germain o.g. 50, Thiehy 60). **Att:** 7,500.
Paris SG 5 (Weah 28, pen 81, Ginola 40, Calderaro 78, Bravo 86), **Metz 1** (Chaouch pen 68). **Att:** 27,000.

GERMANY Weekend

Bayer Uerdingen 2 (Sassen 32, 85),
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Kirsten 90). **Att:** 10,000.
Schalke 2 (Buskens 14, Mihajklovic 67),
Karlsruher SC 2 (Kiriakov 21, Krieg 46). **Att:** 34,100.
Hamburg SV 2 (J. Hartmann 15, Bester 89), **VfL Bochum 0. Att:** 16,650.
Kaiserslautern 2 (Funkel pen 45, Hotic 85), **Nurnberg 0. Att:** 33,800.
Wattenscheid 1 (Kios 27), **Borussia Dortmund 3** (Chapuisat 6, 67, Mill 7). **Att:** 25,000.
Bayern Munich 2 (Thon pen 51, Max 90),
Borussia Mg. 2 (Criens 26, Helmer 89). **Att:** 64,000.
Koln 4 (Steinmann 7, Rudy 29, Lehmann 57, Sturm 89), **Saarbrucken 2** (Wynalda 26, Savitsjev 67). **Att:** 22,000.
Dynamo Dresden 2 (Gutschow 47, Schossler 78), **Werder Bremen 3** (A. Herzog 8, Gutschow 47, M. Bode 83). **Att:** 14,500.
Eintracht Frankfurt 4 (Yeboah 33, 61, Kruse 64, Studer 80), **VfB Stuttgart 0. Att:** 25,000.

HOLLAND Weekend

Roda JC 4 (Ter Avest 35, Van de Luer 44, Hanssen 51, 54), **Den Bosch 1** (Smeets 81). **Att:** 2,500.
SVV/Dordrecht 0, FC Twente 0. Att: 1,650.
Cambuur 1 (Bos 21), **Vitesse 3** (De Gier 57, Eijer 67, Loeffen 82). **Att:** 6,000.
GA Eagles 0, Groningen 0. Att: 5,750.
Volendam 1 (Visser 16), **MVV 2** (Meijer 36, Kras 87). **Att:** 2,700.
PSV 1 (Romario 28), **Feyenoord 1** (Kiprich pen 90). **Att:** 28,700.
Sparta 1 (Valke 54), **Willem II 0. Att:** 3,000.
Utrecht 4 (Van der Ark 2, Oosterhuis 11, Bijl 58, Smolarek 76), **Fortuna Sittard 0. Att:** 6,000.
RKC 0, Ajax 5 (Bergkamp 15, 52, 90, Pettersson 45, Overmars 89). **Att:** 6,000.

ITALY Weekend

Brescia 4 (Raducioiu 27, Saurini 36, 71, Hagi 52), **Foggia 1** (Medford 68). **Att:** 8,000.
Cagliari 1 (Pusceddu 48), **AS Roma 0. Att:** 18,000.
Fiorentina 3 (Baiano 13, Effenberg 47, Di Mauro 88), **AC Milan 7** (Massaro 25, 45, Lentini 33, Gullit 41, 86, Van Basten 78, 90). **Att:** 42,585.
Genoa 4 (Signorini 15, Pecoraro o.g. 25, Skuhravy 33, pen 75), **Ancona 4** (Agostini 16, 84, Detari 36, Sogliano 89). **Att:** 23,000.
Internazionale 1 (Sosa pen 78),
Atalanta 0. Att: 40,000.
Lazio 5 (Signori pen 14, 34, pen 70, Fuser 24, 38), Parma 2 (Osio 30, 44). **Att:** 50,000.
Napoli 2 (Fonseca 84, Zola 87), **Juventus 3** (Baggio 5, Moller 57, Vialli 80). **Att:** 75,000.
Torino 2 (Silenzi 33, Aguilera 66),
Sampdoria 2 (Annoni o.g. 14, Vierchowod 89). **Att:** 20,000.
Udinese 5 (Branca 8, Balbo 32, 58, pen 65, Manicone 82), **Pescara 2** (Borgovno 22, Bivi pen 74). **Att:** 16,000.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Estoril 1, Belenenses 1
Maritimo 1, Pacos Ferreira 1
Beira-Mar 1, Tirsense 0
Vit Guimaraes 0, Salgueiros 1
Chaves 1, Famalicao 1
FC Porto 2, Sp. Braga 0
Boavista 0, Espinho 0
Benfica 1, Farense 0
Gil Vicente 1, Sporting Lisbon 0

SCOTLAND Weekend

Aberdeen 0, Dundee Utd 1 (Ferguson 90). **Att:** 13,000.
Dundee 0, Celtic 1 (Galloway 4). **Att:** 12,866.
Hearts 1 (Robertson 25), **St. Johnstone 1** (Davies 47). **Att:** 7,738.
Motherwell 2 (Simpson 65, Kirk 71),
Airdrie 0. Att: 4,702.
Partick Thistle 2 (Farmingham 20, 81),
Hibernian 2 (Jackson 51, Weir 64). **Att:** 8,067.
Rangers 4 (McCoist 25, 27, 48, 79),
Falkirk 0. Att: 40,691.

SPAIN Weekend

Cadiz 0, Oviedo 2 (Carlos 56, pen 82). **Att:** 8,000.
Espanol 2 (Korneyev 35, pen 46), **Rayo Vallecano 2** (Momparlet 42, Polster pen 75). **Att:** 15,000.
Real Zaragoza 0, Celta 0. Att: 18,000.
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Luke 80, Ciganda 90),
Sevilla 1 (Marcos 44). **Att:** 40,000.
Logrones 1 (Poyatos 3), **Osasuna 1** (Aguila 51). **Att:** 6,500.
Valencia 1 (Penev 64), **Real Sociedad 0. Att:** 40,000.
Deportivo La Coruna 3 (Bebeto 36, 64, Rocha o.g. 81), **Real Madrid 2** (Hierro 22, Zamorano 26). **Att:** 25,000.
Albacete 1 (Rommel 65), **Tenerife 0. Att:** 10,000.
Sporting Gijon 1 (Iordanov 78),
Barcelona 1 (Beguiristain 1). **Att:** 20,000.
Atletico Madrid 2 (Manolo 15, Donato 80),
Burgos 0. Att: 18,000.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

Cup — 3rd round
Stade Lausanne 1, Lausanne 5
Winterhur 2, St Gallen 5
Renens 0, Sion 3
Thun 1, Bulle 2
Delemont 0, Young Boys 2
FC Luzern 1, Chiasso 0
Rorschach 1, Grasshoppers 7
Munsingen 1, Neuchatel Xamax 4
Gunzwil 2, Lugano 7
Bellinzona 0, FC Aarau 3
Arbon 0, FC Zurich 3
Chenois 1, Servette 1

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

AUSTRIA Weekend

Admira Wacker 1 (Marschall 87), **Linzer ASK 0. Att:** 3,000.
Wiener SC 1 (Zimgast 73), **Vorwarts Steyr 1** (Novak 64). **Att:** 3,000.
Stahl Linz 1 (Pacult 80), **St Polten 1** (Gussnig 41). **Att:** 1,000.
Sturm Graz 1 (Calo 68), **VfB Modling 1** (Ruhmkorf 3). **Att:** 1,000.
Austria Wien 1 (Sekerlioglu 68), **Rapid Wien 2** (Metlitski 33, Fjortoft 79). **Att:** 16,000.
Wacker Innsbruck 2 (Westerhaler 33, Hortnagl 45), **Austria Salzburg 0. Att:** 9,000.

BELGIUM Weekend

Antwerp 2 (Kiekens pen 28, Czerniatynski 54), **Club Brugge 1** (Dziubinski 52). **Att:** 12,000.

ENGLAND Midweek

Coca-Cola (League) Cup
2nd Round, 2nd leg
Chesterfield 1, Liverpool 4 (Agg: 5-8)
Hartlepool 2, Sheff Weds 2 (Agg: 2-5)
Ipswich Town 4, Wigan Ath 0 (Agg: 6-0)
Lincoln City 1, C Palace 1 (Agg: 2-4)
Wimbledon 0, Bolton Wand 1 (Agg: 3-2)
Aston Villa 2, Oxford Utd 1 (Agg: 4-2)
Brentford 2, Tottenham 4 (Agg: 3-7)
Chelsea 1, Walsall 0 (Agg: 4-0)
Everton 3, Rotherham Utd 0 (Agg: 3-1)
Manchester Utd 1, Brighton 0 (Agg: 2-1)
Middlesbrough 1, Newcastle 3 (Agg: 1-3)
Norwich City 2, Carlisle 0 (Agg: 4-2)
Nottm. Forest 2, Stockport 1 (Agg: 5-3)
Oldham Ath 0, Exeter City 0 (Agg: 1-0)
Scarborough 3, Coventry 0 (Agg: 3-2)
Sheffield Utd 4, Bristol City 1 (Agg: 5-3)
Southampton 3, Gillingham 0 (Agg: 3-0)
Millwall 1, Arsenal 1 (Agg: 2-2)
Arsenal won on penalties
Grimsby Town 2, QPR 1 (Ag: 3-3)
QPR won on penalties
Blackburn 4, Huddersfield 4 (Agg: 5-4)
Bristol Rovers 1, Man City 2 (Agg: 1-2)
Scunthorpe v Leeds Utd — *postponed*

FRANCE Weekend

Nimes 0, Montpellier 0. Att: 10,586.
Le Havre 3 (Mahut 40, Gurili 48, Thiehy 73), **Strasbourg 0. Att:** 6,296.
Lens 0, Sochaux 0. Att: 9,000.
Auxerre 3 (Baticle 29, Dutuel 72, 83),
Caen 2 (Gravelaine 8, Cauet 57). **Att:** 7,000.
AS Monaco 1 (Chantreuil o.g. 41),
St. Etienne 0. Att: 4,000.
Toulon 1 (Thys 43), **Valenciennes 2** (Kovacs 66, 68). **Att:** 3,000.
Bordeaux 1 (Valdeir 61), **Marseille 0. Att:** 30,000.
Lyon 1 (Garde 7), **Paris SG 1** (Valdo 50). **Att:** 26,227.
Nantes 4 (Loko 2, Quedec 50, Pedros 59, Vulic 89), **Lille 0. Att:** 13,000.
Metz 1 (Chanlot 45), **Toulouse 1** (Pavon 35). **Att:** 8,608.

GERMANY Weekend

Cup — 3rd rnd
SV Ulm 46 1, Borussia Dortmund 3
VfL Osnabruck 4, Borussia Mg. 1
VfR Heilbronn 0, Bayer Leverkusen 2
Bayer Uerdingen 0, Hanover 96 1
Werder Bremen 3, FSV Mainz 05 1
MSV Duisburg 3, Ein. Braunschweig 1
Ein. Frankfurt 4, Mannheim 1
Bischofswerda 0, Karlsruher SC 1
Nurnberg 5, FC Remscheid 2

HOLLAND Weekend

RKC 0, PSV 3 (Numan 2, Romario 14, 85). **Att:** 5,281.
Roda JC 3 (Hofstede 61, Brouwer o.g. 81, Jansen 85), **Cambuur 2** (Mols 66, 68). **Att:** 3,500.

ITALY Weekend

Cup — 3rd rnd
AC Milan 3, Cagliari 0
Foggia 0, Internazione 0
AS Roma 4, Fiorentina 2
Napoli 2, Verona 2
Bari 1, Torino 1
Cesena 1, Lazio 1
Parma 1, Venezia 0
Juventus 1, Genoa 0

SCOTLAND Weekend

Airdrie 2 (Coyle 34, Jack pen 58), **Partick Thistle 2** (Shaw 15, Britton 17). **Att:** 5,000.
Celtic 1 (Miller 7), **Hearts 1** (Preston 37). **Att:** 26,059.
Dundee Utd 1 (Connolly 65),
Motherwell 1 (McCart 48). **Att:** 5,380.
Falkirk 2 (May 26, McQueen pen 32),
Dundee (Den Bieman 8, Dodds 68). **Att:** 4,818.
Hibernian 1 (Wright 4), **Aberdeen 3** (Shearer 61, Jess 63, 84). **Att:** 8,871.
St Johnstone 1 (Arkins 37), **Rangers 5** (Hateley 10, 60, McCoist pen 15, 57, Ferguson 64). **Att:** 9,532.

SPAIN Weekend

Oviedo 1 (Jankovic pen 67), **Atletico Madrid 4** (Donato 44, Futre 50, Moya 70, 82). **Att:** 16,662.
Rayo Vallecano 1 (Calderon 52), **Cadiz 1** (Quevedo 80). **Att:** 5,000.
Celta 0, Espanol 1 (Fonseca 79). **Att:** 15,000.
Sevilla 1 (Maradona pen 52), **Real Zaragoza 0. Att:** 58,000.
Osasuna 1 (Urban 47), **Athletic Bilbao 2** (Ciganda 21, 43). **Att:** 13,000.
Real Sociedad 3 (Imaz 7, Alaba 78, Loinaz 89), **Logrones 0. Att:** 13,000.
Real Madrid 2 (Hierro 71, Prosinecki 90),
Valencia 0. Att: 60,000.
Tenerife 3 (Chano 24, Felipe 36, Redondo 60), **Deportivo La Coruna 1** (Aldana 3). **Att:** 23,000.
Barcelona 3 (Laudrup 9, Stoichkov 12, Beguiristain 13), **Albacete 3** (Pinilla 36, Antonio Carlos 78, Zalazar 87). **Att:** 70,000.
Burgos 2 (Limperger 72, Balint pen 90),
Sporting Gijon 1 (Juanele pen 88). **Att:** 9,000.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

FC Aarau 0, Grasshopper 1 (Vega 54). **Att:** 6,400.
Servette 1 (Neuville 76), **Sion 1** (Assis 2). **Att:** 11,600.
Lugano 1 (Subiat 50), **Young Boys 1** (Christensen 87). **Att:** 2,500.
Lausanne 1 (Fink 27), **Chiasso 0. Att:** 4,600.
Neuchatel 1 (Ramzy 45), **Bulle 0. Att:** 6,800.
FC Zurich 0, St Gallen 1 (Hurtado 57). **Att:** 4,500.

SOUTH AMERICAN RESULTS

CONMEBOL CUP
First round — 1st legs

August 5.
In Buenos Aires, Argentina.
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 0
DEPORTIVO ESPANOL (Arg) 0
Att: 5,000. **Ref:** Juan C. Crespi (Arg).
Velez Sarsfield: Docabo, Bidevich, Almandoz, Pellegrino, Manusovich, Compagnucci, Galeano (Husain), Bassedas, Zalazar, Rojas (Assad), Camps.
Dep. Espanol: Catalano, Batista, Bustos, Luongo, Zanetti, Michelini, Peralta, Agoglia (Trimarchi), Barrella (Sassone), Parodi, Caviglia.
● Velez Sarsfield, in spite of lining up a reserve team, pressed more in a poor match which, however, neither team deserved to win.

In Barranquilla, Colombia.
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 6 (Ferreira 3, Valencia, pen, Pacheco, Hernadez.)
SPORTING MARITIMO (Ven) 0
HT: 0-0.
● Maritimo fell to pieces in the second half when all the goals were scored, specially in the last five minutes when the last three goals came.

In Santa Cruz, Bolivia.
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bol) 0
OLIMPIA (Par) 4 (Sanabria, Amarilla, Mesa, J. Gonzalez)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Humberto Aliaga (Bol).
Oriente Petrolero: Rojas, Monasterio, Rovero, Parada, Saldias, Medrano, C. Gonzalez, Takeo, Joao Carlos, Diaz, Molina.
Olimpia: Goycochea, Ramirez, Nunez Sanabria, Caceres, Sanabria, J. Gonzalez, Spindola (Messa), Romero, Jara, Caceres, Amarilla.
● Both teams went all out in attack in an entertaining match, but Olimpia's attack was better and created more chances.

In Montevideo, Uruguay
PENAROL (Uru) 0
DANUBIO (Uru) 0
Att: 3,000. **Ref:** Fernando Cardellino (Uru).
Penarol: Ferro, Rosa, Asteggiano, Corea, Blanco, A. Martinez, Castro, Pedrucci (Rodriguez), Garcia (Recoba), E. Martinez, Lopez.
Danubio: Baleato, Aczueta, Da Luz (Ros), Sanchez, Kanapkis, Cabrera, Bitancort, Rodriguez (Gomez), Pereyra, Olivera, Espana.
● Penarol fielded reserves in a poor match with few goal chances on either side.

In Rancagua, Chile.
O'HIGGINS (Chi) 0
GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA (Arg) 0
Att: 6,500. **Ref:** Carlos Maciel (Par).
● Each team had the better of one half with Gimnasia failing to take chances when they dominated before the interval and O'Higgins coming closer in the second half — one shot hit a post, another saved off the goal-line by a defender — when the Argentine team played with 10 men for the last 23 minutes, Ortiz being sent off after 67 minutes.

In Lima, Peru.
UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 1 (Vidales)
NACIONAL (Ecu) 3 (Chala 2, Hurtado)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Eduardo Gamboa (Chi).
Universitario: Masi, Charun, Barco (Besada), Carranza, Viadales, M. Rodriguez, Yanez (C. Rodriguez), Martinez, Silva, Gonzalez, Baroni.
Nacional: Reynoso, Mosquera, Valencia, Quinones, Guerrero, Dominguez, Ballesteros, Castaneda (Suarez), Constante, Chala, Hurtado.
● Nacional, marking well and much more disciplined, were on top in the first half with Chala being a constant problem for the Peruvian defence. In the second half, Nacional defended their lead, but were never outplayed and gave away few chances.

August 8.
In Braganza Paulista, Brazil.
BRAGANTINO (Bra) 2 (Mauricinho, Joao Santos)
GREMIO (Bra) 2 (Carlos Miguel, Luciano)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 1,235. **Ref:** Carlos V. Cerdeira (Bra).
Bragantino: Marcelo, Gil Baiano, Junior, Ayupe, Bira, Marcao (Joao Henrique), Da Guia, Tuguinha (Joao Santos), Mauricinho, Marco Aurelio, Ronaldo Alfredo.
Gremio: Emerson, Carlao, Wagner, Luciano, Lira, Cacapa, Alaercio (Mabilia) Caio, Carlos Miguel, Alcindo (Joao Marcelo), Marcos Severo.

August 9.
In Juiz da Fora, Brazil.
FLUMINENSE (Bra) 2
ATLETICO MINEIRO (Bra) 1

First round — 2nd legs
August 9
PENAROL (Uru) 1 (Lopez)
DANUBIO (Uru) 1 (Espana)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,000.
Agg: 1-1, ***Penarol won 7-6 on pens.***
Penarol: Ferro, Rosa, Asteggiano, Corea, Blanco, A.Martinez, Castro, Pedrucci, M. Rodriquez (Recoba), E.Martinez, Lopez (Garcia).
Danubio: Baleato, Alzueta, Da Luz, Sanchez, Kanapkis, Cabrera (Pereyra), Bitancort, J. Rodriguez (Gonez), Olivera, Biaggio, Espana.
● Penarol, again lining up mostly reserves, managed to win an even match on penalties with Pedrucci, Blanco, Recoba, Castro, Rosa, E. and A. Martinez netting for the winners and Biaggio, Gomez, Pereyra, Alcueta, Bitancort and Olivera scoring for Danubio.

In Caracas, Venezuela.
SPORTING MARITIMO (Ven) 0
ATLETICO JUNIOR (Col) 1 (Calero)
HT: 0-0.
Atletico Junior won 7-0 on agg.
Sp. Maritimo: Nikolac, Pacheco (Aranguren), Rizzi, Millan, Medina, San Vicente, Marines, Perez, Benitez (Mauro), Dominguez, Marquez.
At. Junior: Pazo, Torres, Rojas, Cassiani, Galeano, Calero, Grau (Mendez), Arauio, Hernandez, Valencia, Pacheco.
● Maritimo, never in the hunt as they trailed by six goals from the first leg, had the chance to equalise from a penalty which Pazo saved from Mauro.

August 12.
In Quito, Ecuador.
NACIONAL (Ecu) 3 (Chala 2, Hurtado)
UNIVERSITARIO (Peru) 1 (Silva)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Francisco Faria (Ven).
Nacional won 6-2 on agg.
Nacional: Reinoso, Mosquera, Ballesteros, Quinones, Guerrero, Valencia, Domingues, Constante, Castaneda (Vega), Chala, Hurtado (Garay).
Universitario: Marru, Charnun, Barco, Dulanto, Vidal, Torrealba, Carranza, Rodriguez, Silva, Gonzalez (Letelier), Baroni, (Bezada).
● Nacional once again had no problems in controlling play, playing calmly from the start cushioned by their 3-1 first leg lead.

In La Plata, Argentina.
GIMNASIA Y ESGRIMA (Arg) 2 (San Esteban, Fernandez)
O'HIGGINS (Chi) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ernesto Filippi (Uru).
Gimnasia won 2-0 on agg.
Gimnasia y Esgrima: Cristante, Sanguinetti, San Esteban, Morant, Dopzo, Bianco, P. Fernandez, Odriozola, Guillermo Barros Schelotto, (Fabio Fernandez), Fabian Fernandez (Gustavo Barros Schelotto), Guerra.
O'Higgins: Tapia, Ardiman, Melendez, Fuentes, Molina, Mardones, Ugarte, Alfaro, Carreno (Moyano), De Luca, Medina (Olmos).
● Gimnasia were deserved winners and created more chances although O'Higgins, relying more on defence and counter-attacks, did have scoring chances, the best coming just before the end when Cristante stopped a penalty from De Luca.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina
DEPORTIVO ESPANOL (Arg) 2 (Parodi, Sassone)
VELEZ SARSFIELD (Arg) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Anibal Hay (Arg).
Dep. Espanol won 2-0 on agg.
Dep. Espanol: Catalano, Batista, Bustos, Rogel, Zanetti, Michelini, Peralta, Correa, Agoglia (Sassone), Parodi, Trimarchi (Barrella).
Velez Sarsfield: Docabo, Bidevich, Almandoz, Trotta, Cardozo, Gomez, Galeano (Rojas), Bassedas, Zalazar, Flores, Camps.
● Espanol gained a four-minute lead and Velez Sarsfield, fielding mostly reserves, pressed for the equalizer but without any attacking ideas. It was nevertheless close as Espanol's second goal only came in the last minute.

In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 1 (Amarilla)
ORIENTE PETROLERO (Bol) 0
HT: 1-0.
Olimpia won 5-0 on agg.
Olimpia: Goycochea, Caceres, Ramirez, Nunez, Suarez, Romero, Vidal Sanabria, Gonzalez, Sanabriz, Amarilla, Caballero.
Oriente: Rojas, Riveros, Parada, Monasterio, Saldias, Rocca, Medrano, Takeo, Diaz, Molinas, J. Gonzalez.

In Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
ATLETICO MINEIRO (Bra) 5
FLUMINENSE (Bra) 1
Atletico Mineiro won 6-3 on agg.

In Porto Alegre, Brazil.
GREMIO (Bra) 1
BRAGANTINO (Bra) 1
Agg: 3-3. ***Gremio won 7-6 on pens.***

Second round — 1st legs
August 19.
In Asuncion, Paraguay.
OLIMPIA (Par) 0
DEPORTIVO ESPANOL (Arg) 0
Ref: Jose Aparecido Oliveira (Bra).
Olimpia: Goycochea, Caceres, Peralta, Nunez, Suarez, Romero, Vidal Sanabria, Gonzalez, Sanabria, Amarilla, Caballero (Pedrozo).
Dep. Espanol: Catalano, Luongo, Batista, Michelini, Bustos, Correa, Zanetti, Albornoz, Peralta, Parodi (Sassone), Caviglia.
● In a fairly even match, Espanol were more defence-minded and got the away draw they played for. Both teams finished with 10 men — Amarilla being sent off eight minutes before half-time and Albornoz seven minutes later.

In Porto Alegre, Brazil.
GREMIO (Bra) 1 (Mabilia)
**

COLOMBIA 0
URUGUAY 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Alberto Tejada (Peru).
Uruguay: Martinez, Oveira, Lopez, Adinolfi, Traversa, Sena, Marquez, Lemos, Madruga, Correa, Delgado.
Colombia: D. Velez, Gonzales, Quintero, Octegon, J. Velez, Garcia, Perea, Restrapo, Moreno, Oviedo, W. Moreno.

August 30
URUGUAY 3 (Correa 3)
ECUADOR 1 (Caido)
Att: 12,000. **HT:** 2-0.

BRAZIL 1 (Mauricio)
COLOMBIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Oscar Velez (Par).
Brazil: Dida, Andre Luiz, Gelson, Juarez, Wagner, Pereira, Marcelo, Adriano, Mauricio (Cate), Magrao, Yan (Rodrigo).
Colombia: D. Velez, Gonzales, Tierradentro, Ortegon, J. Velez, Garcia, Parea, Oviedo (Castillo), Restrepo, W Moreno, L. Moreno (Mosquera).
● Brazil won the title with goalkeeper Dida not letting through a single goal in six matches in which the team however scored only seven goals in winning them all. Colombia were better in the first half while Brazil risked little, but their best man, Mauricio, scored just before the break.

Final round — final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	3	0	0	3	0	6
Uruguay	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Colombia	3	0	2	1	0	1	2
Ecuador	3	0	1	2	1	4	0

Top three qualify for next year's world championship.

CONCACAF U-17 CHAMPIONSHIP
(in Mexico)
Final round (ended Aug.23): 1) Mexico 4 pts — on goal difference; 2) United States 4; 3) Canada 3; 4) Cuba 1.
Top three qualify for next year's world championship.

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS
Aug 2: Talleres Cordoba (Arg) 0 Penarol (Uru) 0
Aug.3: Cruz Azul (Mex) beat Gremio (Bra) 4-3 on pens
Aug 4: Queretaro (Mex) 1 Gremio (Bra) 3
Aug 16: Saprissa (CR) 1 Liverpool (Uru) 1
Aug 20: Herediano (CR) 1 Liverpool (Uru) 0.
Aug 27: Deportivo Saprissa (CR) 3 Olimpia (Hon) 1
Sep 16: Universidad Catolica (Chi) 3 Independiente (Arg) 1.

OTHER INTERNATIONALS
Aug 12: Chile select 4 Estudiantes de La Plata (Arg) 2.

SOUTH AMERICAN TABLES

ARGENTINA
National A Division
Opening championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	7	4	3	0	10	4	11
River Plate	7	3	3	1	6	1	9
Huracan	7	3	3	1	11	8	9
San Lorenzo	7	3	2	2	9	7	8
Argentinos Juniors	7	2	4	1	7	6	8
Independiente	7	2	3	2	7	9	7
Racing Club	7	2	3	2	5	5	7
FC Oeste	7	1	5	1	4	3	7
Deportivo Mandiyu	7	2	3	2	7	10	7
Talleres Cordoba	7	2	3	2	6	8	7
Velez Sarsfield	5	2	2	1	5	3	6
Rosario Central	6	3	0	3	6	6	6
Esturdiantes	6	2	2	2	5	3	6
Lanus	7	1	4	2	8	7	6
Deportivo Espanol	6	2	2	2	6	6	6
Gimnasia	6	2	1	3	8	10	5
Platense	7	1	3	3	6	7	5
San Martin	5	1	3	1	3	2	5
Belgrano Cordoba	6	1	1	4	4	10	3
Newell's Old Boys	6	0	2	4	2	9	2

BRAZIL
Sao Paulo State League
Green Group

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Corinthians	14	8	4	2	22	7	20
Sao Paul	14	7	6	1	20	12	20
Santos	14	5	7	2	20	11	17
Guarani	14	4	9	1	13	8	17
Bragantino	14	6	4	4	14	13	16
Portuguesa	14	4	8	2	15	9	16
Ituano	14	3	9	2	15	16	15
Botafogo	14	4	5	5	14	21	13
Palmeiras	14	3	7	4	8	8	13
Noroeste	14	3	6	5	10	14	12
Juventus	14	2	7	5	10	14	11
Saocarlense	14	3	4	7	12	19	10
Santo Andre	14	1	8	5	7	14	10
Internacional	14	1	4	9	5	19	6

Yellow Group

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ponte Preta	16	10	5	1	28	15	25
Rio Branco	16	9	5	2	23	9	23
Mogi Mirim	16	10	2	4	28	15	22
Uniao Sao Joao	16	7	6	3	19	14	20
America	16	6	5	5	27	24	17
XV de Piracicaba	16	5	7	4	24	20	17
Olimpia	16	5	6	5	15	15	16
Ferroviaria	16	6	3	7	14	13	15
Novorizontino	16	5	5	6	15	15	15
Sao Jose	16	4	7	5	14	18	15
Marilia	16	4	6	6	16	19	14
Aracatuba	16	4	4	8	12	18	12
XV de Jau	16	2	3	11	13	33	7
Catanduvense	16	1	4	11	4	24	6

Top six of Green Group and top two of Yellow Group qualify for semi-final stage.

Rio de Janeiro (Guanabara State) Championship
1st stage

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco da Gama	7	6	1	0	13	0	13
Fluminense	8	5	1	2	17	7	11
Bangu	7	4	2	1	9	4	10
Flamengo	6	4	1	1	15	5	9
Botafogo	6	2	3	1	5	4	7
Volta Redonda	7	2	3	2	3	5	7
Madureira	6	2	3	1	4	7	7
America/Tres Rios	8	2	2	4	9	13	6
America/Rio	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Americano	8	1	1	6	6	13	3
Campo Grande	6	1	1	4	4	14	3
Itapurena	7	0	2	5	5	13	2

PERU
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Universitario	22	14	4	4	38	14	32
Sporting Cristal	22	11	7	4	36	17	29
Melgar	22	9	9	4	32	20	27
Cienciano	22	10	7	5	29	23	27
Sport Boys	22	7	11	4	31	23	25
Union Minas	22	9	6	7	34	31	24
UT Cajamarca	22	9	5	8	26	29	23
Alianza Lima	22	7	8	7	22	18	22
Dep. San Agustin	22	6	10	6	26	30	22
Alianza At. Sullana	22	7	7	8	23	33	21
Dep. Municipal	22	6	9	7	30	31	21
Leon de Huanuco	22	6	8	8	31	27	20
Col. Nac. Iquitos	22	6	8	8	19	35	20
Carlos Mannucci	22	3	10	9	16	27	16
Defensor Lima	22	3	9	10	22	25	15
Dep. Yurimaguas	22	1	6	15	21	43	8

PARAGUAY
First Division
(1st round — final): 1) Olimpia, Sportivo Luqueno 17pts; 3) Atletico Colegiales 13; 4) Nacional 12; 5) Guarani 11; 6) River Plate, Cerro Cora, Sol de America, Presidente Hayes 10; 10) Libertad 9; 11) Cerro Porteno 8; 12) Sportivo San Lorenzo 5.

(2nd round — after five of 11 games): 1) Olimpia, Cerro Porteno 8 pts; 3) Guaranin, Atletico Colegiales 5; 5) Libertad, San Lorenzo 5; 7) Presidente Hayes, Cerro Cora 4; 9) River Plate, Sol de America, Nacional, Sportivo Luqueno 3.

URUGUAY
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	14	10	3	1	34	15	23
Danubio	15	7	6	2	21	12	20
Racing Club	15	3	11	1	11	9	17
Penarol	15	6	4	5	17	13	16
River Plate	15	5	5	5	20	18	15
Wanderers	15	4	6	5	13	14	14
Bella Vista	15	5	4	6	17	18	14
Progreso	15	4	6	5	15	21	14
Defensor Sporting	14	4	6	4	14	12	14
Liverpool	15	3	7	5	11	20	13
Cerro	15	3	6	6	17	21	12
Rentistas	15	4	3	8	13	22	11
Central Espanol	14	2	5	7	10	17	9

CHILE
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	15	11	1	3	32	17	23
Univ. Catolica	15	9	4	2	37	17	22
Cobreloa	15	5	8	2	22	16	18
Univ. de Chile	15	6	6	3	19	15	18
Union Espanola	15	7	3	5	23	20	17
Antofagasta	15	6	4	5	19	15	16
Cobresal	15	7	2	6	22	21	16
Coquimbo Unido	15	5	5	5	22	24	15
Everton	15	4	6	5	16	19	14
Palestino	15	5	4	6	25	30	14
La Serena	15	4	5	6	13	14	13
O'Higgins	15	4	5	6	13	18	13
Fernandez Vial	15	2	7	6	18	22	11
Temuco	15	3	5	7	17	25	11
Concepcion	15	3	4	8	17	29	10
Huachipato	15	2	5	8	14	29	9

MEXICO
First Division
Group 1: 1) Verzcruz, Atlante 6 points; 3) Queretaro 4; 4) Santos, Univ.Autonoma Tamaulipas 3.
Group 2: 1) Necaxa 9; 2) Puebla 8; 3) Univ. Autonoma Guadalajara 7; 4) America 6; 5) Morelia 3.
Group 3: 1) Atlas 7; 2) Guadalajara, Univ. Nuevo Leon, Cruz Azul 6; 5) Univ. Guadalajara 5.
Group 4: 1) Monterrey 8; 2) Toluca, Leon, Univ. Autonoma Mexico 7; 5) Pachuca 6.

ECUADOR
First Division
First stage *(final):* 1) Emelec 36pts; 2) Nacional 30; 3) Barcelona 28; 4) Liga Dep. Universitaria, Cuenca 25; 6) Dep. Quito, Valdez 21; 8) Aucas, Green Cross 19; 10) Delfin 14; 11) Universidad Catolica, Tecnico Universitario 13.

Second stage *(final):*
Group 1: 1) Green Cross 14 pts; 2) Barcelona, Deportivo Quito 13; 4) Emelec 11; 5) Tecnico Universitario 5; 6) Deportivo Cuenca 3.
Group 2: 1) Liga Dep. Universitaria Quito 12; 2) Nacional, Valdez 11; 4) Delfin 10; 5) Aucas 9; 6) Liga Univ. Portoviejo 7.
(Group winners Green Cross and Liga Deportiva Universitaria quality for final round together with first stage winners Nacional and Emelec and Barcelona and Deportivo Quito for gaining most points apart from the four clubs mentioned.)

BOLIVIA
First Division
(Three games to go)
1) San Jose 41 pts; 2) Bolivar 40; 3) The Strongest 36; 4) Jorge Wilsterman 31; 5) Oriente Petrolero 30; 6) Litoral, Destroyers, Independiente 29; 9) Cicion 26; 10) Blooming 25; 11) Petrolero 23; 12) Universitario 21; 13) Orcobo 19; 14) Real Santa Cruz 15; 15) Chaco Petrolero 14; 16) Real Beni 12.

COLOMBIA
First Division
1) Deportivo Cali 43 pts; 2) Atletico Junior, Independiente Santa Fe 41, Millonarios 41; 5) America, Union Magdalena 39; 7) Nacional 37; 8) Quindio 36; 9) Envigado 35; 10) Bucaramanga 34; 11) Pereira 32; 12) Once Caldas (Once Philips) 31; 13) Independiente Medellin 27; 14) Tolima 24; 15) Cucuta 23; 16) Real Cartagena 21.

HONDURAS
First Division
(After 3 games): 1) Motagua 6 pts; 2) Olimpia 5; 3) Maraton 4; 4) Real Maya, Victoria 3; 6) Real Espana, Petrotela, Vida 2; 9) Platense, Super Estrella 0.

EL SALVADOR
First Division
(After 3 games): 1) Cojutepeque 6; 2) Apaneca, Tiburones, Baygon-ADET 5; 5) Atletico Marte, FAS 4, 7) Aguila, Luis Angel Firpo, Alianza 3; 10) Fuerte San Francisco 2.

GUATELMALA
Cup
(final 1st round standings)
Group 1: 1) Dep. Suchitepque 10pts; 2) Comunicaciones, Galcasa 6; 4) Juventud Retalteca 2.
Group 2: 1) Escuintla 10; 2) Municpal, Amatitlan 6; 4) Chiquimulilla 2.
Group 3: 1) Aurora 10; 2) Tipografia Nacional 8; 3) Del Monte 6; 4) Dep. Azabal 0.
(Group winners and best second placed team — Tipografia Nacional — in semi finals.)

First Division
(After 3 games): 1) Dep. Izabal, Galcasa 5; 3) Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Amatitlan, Tipografia Nacional 4; 7) Aurora, Municipal, Chiquimulilla 3; 10) Del Monte 1; 11) Comunicaciones, Juventud Retalteca 0.

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

First round, second legs
(September 30 unless stated)

APOEL 2 (Gogic 77, Sasulitis 84)
AEK Athens 2 (Sabanadzovic 30, Alexandris 70)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Agius (Mal)
Agg: 3-3, ***AEK on away goals.***

Besiktas 2 (Metin 25, Feyyaz 73)
IFK Gothenburg 1 (Eskelinen 11)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 31,400. **Ref:** Amendolia (Ita)
IFK 3-2 on agg

Club Brugge 3 (Staelens 60, Verheyen 77, 85)
Maccabi Tel Aviv 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000 (in Liege). **Ref:** Harrel (Fra)
Brugge 4-0 on agg

CSKA Moscow 4 (Sergevey 24, Korsakov 37, Grishin 44, Kolesnikov 89)
Vikingur Reykjavik 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Toroglu (Tur)
CSKA 5-2 on agg

CSKA Sofia 3 (Metkov 4, Andonov 60, 72 pen)
FK Austria 2 (Flogel 26, Ivanauskas 68)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Elleray (Eng)
FK Austria 5-4 on agg

Dinamo Bucharest 2 (Gerstenmajer 63, Demollari 116)
Kuusysi Lahti 0
HT: 0-0. **90 min:** 1-1. **Att:** 14,000.
Ref: Zakestidis (Gre)
Dinamo 2-1 on agg after extra time

Ferencvaros 0
Slovan Bratislava 0
Att: 25,500. **Ref:** Khusainov (CIS)
Slovan 4-1 on agg

Leeds 4 (Speed 18, McAllister 38, Cantona 66, Chapman 80)
Stuttgart 1 (Buck 33)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 20,457. **Ref:** Milton Nielsen (Den)
● Leeds awarded match 3-0 on forfeit (Stuttgart included fourth, ineligible, foreigner).
Agg: 4-4.

Replay
Leeds 2 (Strachan 34, Shutt 76)
Stuttgart 1 (Golke 40)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Baldas (Ita).
Played Oct 9 in Barcelona.

Lyngby 0
Rangers 1 (Durrant 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,273. **Ref:** Assenmacher (Ger)
Rangers 3-0 on agg

Marseille 3 (Omam Biyik 6, Pele 13, Boli 72)
Glentoran 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Alves de Azevedo (Por)
Marseille 8-0 on agg

Olimpija Ljubljana 0
Milan 3 (Massaro 31, Rijkaard 50, Tassotti 85)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Ulrich (Cze)
Milan 7-0 on agg

Porto 5 (Kostadinov 16, 32, Toni 26, 61, Jose Carlos 67)
US Luxembourg 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Olafsson (Ice)
Porto 9-1 on agg

Skonto Riga 0
Lech Poznan 0
Att: 3,500. **Ref:** McKnight (NI)
Lech 2-0 on agg

Tavria Simferopol 1 (Shevchenko 69 pen)
Sion 3 (Tulio Humberto 67, Carlos Luis 77, Domingos 88)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Faellstrom (Swe)
Sion 7-2 on agg

Viking Stavanger 0
Barcelona 0
Att: 12,041. **Ref:** Ruokonen (Fin)
Barcelona 1-0 on agg

Zhalgiris Vilnius 0
PSV Eindhoven 2 (Numan 26, Romario 39)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Merk (Ger)
PSV 8-0 on agg

Second round, first legs
(October 21 unless stated)

AEK Athens 1 (Dimitriadis 53)
PSV Eindhoven 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 27,000

Club Brugge 2 (Verheyen 35, Booy 41)
FK Austria 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,000

CSKA Moscow 1 (Grishin 18)
Barcelona 1 (Beguiristain 60)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 32,500

Dinamo Bucharest 0
Marseille 0
Att: 28,000

IFK Gothenburg 1 (Bengtsson 85)
Lech Poznan 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,800

Rangers 2 (Lukic o.g. 21, McCoist 37)
Leeds 1 (McAllister 1)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Constantin (Bel)

Sion 2 (Orlando 55, Assis 61)
FC Porto 2 (Semedo 80, Couto 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,800

Slovan Bratislava 0
Milan 1 (Maldini 61)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,000

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

First round, second legs
(September 30 unless stated)

AGF Aarhus 1 (Harder 67)
AIK Stockholm 1 (Simpson 20)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Martino (Swi).
Played Sep 29.
Agg: 4-4, ***Aarhus on away goals***

Admira Wacker Vienna 2 (Marschall 47, Abfalterer 70)
Cardiff City 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,700. **Ref:** Spassov (Bul).
Played Sep 29.
Admira 3-1 on agg

Apollon Limassol 1 (Spoljaric 60)
Liverpool 2 (Rush 62, Hutchison 68)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Stafoggia (Ita).
Played Sep 29.
Liverpool 8-2 on agg

Steaua Bucharest 4 (Andrasi 26, 34, Vladoiu 44, Viorel 85)
Bohemians 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Kaupe (Aus).
Played Sep 29.
Steaua 4-0 on agg

Antwerp 1 (Kiekens 65 pen)
Glenavon 1 (Farris 80)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Holzmann (Aus)
Agg: 2-2, ***Antwerp 3-1 on pens after extra time***

Atletico Madrid 6 (Alfaro 17, Juanito 44, Sabas 58 pen, Pizo Gomez 69, Aguilera 80, Taraba 58 og)
Branik Maribor 1 (Bicarcik 22)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Kapl (Aut)
Atletico 9-1 on agg

Avenir Beggen 1 (Novak 85)
Moscow Spartak 5 (Onopko 6, Piatnitski 9, 78, Radchenko 55, Popov 59)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Johansson (Swe)
Spartak 5-1 on agg

Boavista 3 (Marlon 14, 81, Ricky 26)
Valur Reykjavik 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Blareau (Bel)
Boavista 3-0 on agg

Chernomorets Odessa 0
Olympiakos 3 (Mitsidonas 15, Litovchenko 27, Protasov 80)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Beschin (Ita)
Olympiakos 3-1 on agg

Hannover 2 (Daschner 29, 33)
Werder Bremen 1 (Rufer 19 pen)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 27,436. **Ref:** Van der Ende (Hol)
Bremen 4-3 on agg

Hapoel Tel Aviv 2 (Levin 2, Kakkon 50)
Feyenoord 1 (Fraser 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,000 (at Ramat Gan).
Ref: Piller (Hun)
Agg: 2-2, ***Feyenoord on away goals***

Luzern 1 (Camenzind 24)
Levski Sofia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,000. Urio Velazquez (Spa)
Agg: 2-2, ***Luzern on away goals***

Monaco 0
Miedz Legnica 0
Att: 4,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa)
Monaco 1-0 on agg

Sparta Prague 2 (Vrabec 31, Vonasek 37)
Airdrie 1 (Black 55)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 8,989. **Ref:** Uzunov (Bul)
Sparta 3-1 on agg

TPs Turun 2 (Kajdu 1, Lehtonen 84)
Trabzonspor 2 (Hami 14, Orhan 60)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Williamson (Sco)
Trabzonspor 4-2 on agg

Ujpest 1 (Hetesi 62)
Parma 1 (Grun 53)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Bel)
Parma 2-1 on agg

Second round, first legs
(October 22 unless stated)

Aarhus 3 (S. Andersen 12, T. Christensen 19, M. Nielsen 89 pen)
Steaua Bucharest 2 (Vladoiu 64, Dumitrescu 89)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 9,000

Admira Wacker 2 (Marschall 24, Bacher 41)
Antwerp 4 (Czemiatinski 35, 73, Segers 53, Severeyens 62)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 4,000

Luzern 1 (Rueda 74)
Feyenoord 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 16,100

Monaco 0
Olympiakos 1 (Vaitsis 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,000

Parma 0
Boavista 0
Att: 15,000

Spartak Moscow 4 (Pisarev 10, Karpin 68, 82 pen, Ledyakhov 89)
Liverpool 2 (Wright 67, McManaman 78)
Played Oct 22
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Larsson (Swe)
* Grobbelaar (Liverpool) sent off, 82 min

Trabzonspor 0
Atletico Madrid 2 (Futre 38, Moya 60)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000

Werder Bremen 2 (Neubarth 56, Rufer 81)
Sparta Prague 3 (Sopko 25, Dvirnik 36, Vonasek 90)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 10,747. **Ref:** Amendolia (Ita)

UEFA CUP

First round, second legs
(September 30 unless stated)

Anderlecht 1 (Nilis 4)
Hibernian 1 (Jackson 15)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Martin Navarrete (Spa).
Played Sep 29.
Agg: 3-3, ***Anderlecht on away goals***

Anorthosis Famagusta 0
Juventus 4 (Ravanelli 14, Kohler 39, Casiraghi 66, 87)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 6,000. **Ref:** Hill (Eng).
Played Sep 29.
Juventus 10-1 on agg

Auxerre 7 (Baticle 2, 71, Cocard 11, Prunier 13, 48, Vahirua 28, Leaslandes 84)
Botev Plovdiv 1 (Sadakov 21)
HT: 4-1. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Burge (Wal).
Played Sep 29.
Auxerre 9-3 on agg

Borussia Dortmund 7 (Zorc 10, Delia og 18, Franck 59, M Rummenigge 67, Mill 72, 79, 89)
Floriana 2 (Crawley 11, 17)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 11,790. **Ref:** McArdle (Rol).
Played Sep 29.
Dortmund 8-2 on agg

Derry City 1 (Mooney 60)
Vitesse Arnhem 2 (Straal 44, Laamers 65)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Orrason (Ice).
Played Sep 29.
Vitesse 5-1 on agg

Frem Copenhagen 4 (Haren 17, 37, H I Jensen 19, Thogersen 53)
Xamax Neuchatel 1 (Manfreda 24)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 3,476. **Ref:** Sandra (Bel).
Played Sep 29.
Frem 6-3 on agg

Galatasaray 2 (Hakan 31, Falco 57)
GKS Katowice 1 (Macihievski 75)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000. Gifford (Wal).
Played Sep 29.
Galatasatay 2-1 on agg

Kaiserslautern 4 (Kuntz 29, 84, Witeczek 55, 77)
Fram Reykjavik 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,197. **Ref:** Ansuategui Roca (Spa).
Played Sep 29.
Kaiserslautern 7-0 on agg

Moscow Torpedo 0
Manchester United 0
Att: 11,357. **Ref:** Damgaard (Den).
Played Sep 29.
Agg: 0-0, ***Torpedo 4-3 on pens after extra time***

Portadown 0
Standard Liege 0
Att: 2,500. **Ref:** Ramos (Fra).
Played Sep 29.
Standard 5-0 in agg

Real Madrid 4 (Alfonso 27, Luis Enrique 58, Esnaider 65, Michel 87)
Politehnica Timisoara 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Bodenham (Eng).
Played Sep 29.
Madrid 5-1 on agg

Ajax Amsterdam 3 (Pettersson 26, 79, Bergkamp 49)
Austria Salzburg 1 (Reisinger 60)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,500. **Ref:** Waddell (Sco)
Ajax 6-1 on agg

Belvedur Izola 0
Benfica 5 (Pacheco 21, 46, 66, Joao Pinto II 58, Cesar Brito 87)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,000. **Ref:** Uilenberg (Hol)
Benfica 8-0 on agg

Botev Plovdiv 2 (Iskrenov 5, Petrov 41)
Fenerbahce 2 (Ridvan 37, 78)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Bakker (Hol)
Fenerbahce 5-3 on agg

Celtic 3 (McStay 35, Creaney 39, Collins 79)
Koln 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 30,747. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel)
Celtic 3-2 on agg

Eintracht Frankfurt 9 (Kruse 8, 14, 37, Yeboah 21, 22, 36, 69, Rahn 83, Bein 89)
Widzew Lodz 0
HT: 6-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Mottram (Sco)
Frankfurt 11-2 on agg

Groningen 1 (Huizingh 55)
Vac Izzo 1 (Fuhle 43)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Palsi (Fin)
Vac 2-1 on agg

Hearts 4 (Mackay 10, Baird 21, Levein 42, Snodin 79)
Slavia Prague 2 (Silhavy 14, Kuka 65)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Larsson (Swe)
Slavia 4-3 on agg

MP Mikkeli 1 (Allen 63)
FC Copenhagen 5 (Nielsen 5, Johansen 17, 32, 44, Rasmussen 82)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 971. **Ref:** Levnikov (CIS)
Copenhagen 10-1 on agg

Napoli 1 (Fonseca 7)
Valencia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Karlsson (Swe)
Napoli 6-1 on agg

Orebro 0
Mechelen 0
Att: 5,085. **Ref:** Christensen (Den)
Mechelen 2-1 on agg

Panathinaikos 4 (Saravakos 43, K Warzycha 58, Kalatzis 67, Frantzekos 82)
Electroputere Craiova 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Constantin (Bel)
Panathinaikos 10-0 on agg

Rapid Vienna 3 (Mandreko 8, Fjortoft 16, 38)
Kiev Dynamo 2 (Leonenko 44 pen, 87)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 16,000. **Ref:** Ceccarini (Ita)
Agg: 3-3, ***Kiev on away goals***

Real Sociedad 2 (Lumbreras 6, Miguel Angel Fuentes 23)
Vitoria Guimaraes 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 19,200. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fra)
Vitoria 3-2 on agg

Roma 1 (Hassler 50)
Innsbruck 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Roma 5-1 on agg

Rosenborg Trondheim 2 (Ingebrigtsen 7, Loken 48)
Moscow Dynamo 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 10,218. **Ref:** Cooper (Wal)
Moscow Dynamo 5-3 on agg

Sporting Lisbon 1 (Cadete 84)
Grasshopper 3 (Elber 31, 110, Magnin 83)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Krug (Ger)
Grasshopper 4-3 on agg, after extra time

Universitatea Craiova 1 (Gane 21)
Sigma Olomouc 2 (Kerber 23, 42)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Nervik (Nor)
Sigma 3-1 on agg

PAOK Salonika 0
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Weah 15, Sassus 32)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol).
Played Oct 1.
Paris SG 4-0 on agg
● Match abandoned after 46 minutes because of crowd problems.

Spora Luxembourg 1 (Cruz 20)
Sheffield Wednesday 2 (Watson 18, Warhurst 36)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Mariasson (Ice).
Played Oct 1.
Sheff Wed 10-2 on agg

Torino 3 (Bruno 2, Casagrande 76, Aguilera 80)
Norrkoping 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,500. **Ref:** Spirin (CIS).
Played Oct 1.
Torino 3-1 on agg

Zaragoza 2 (Montanier 24, Poyet 64)
Caen 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** King (Wal)
Zaragoza 4-3 on agg

Second round, first legs
(October 22 unless stated)

Anderlecht 4 (Nilis 23, Degrijse 38, Versavel 51, Van Vossen 59)
Kiev Dynamo 2 (Shkapenki 20, Leonenko 53)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 20,500

Auxerre 5 (Baticle 14, 40, 80, Martins 55, Otokori 91)
FC Copenhagen 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 12,000

Benfica 5 (Yuran 42, Isaias 55, 86, Pacheco 58 pen, William 79 pen)
Vac Izzo 1 (Szedlaczek 82)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000

Borussia Dortmund 1 (Chapuisat 70)
Celtic 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 35,803. **Ref:** I Craciunescu

Home News

Shearer gives a welcome lift

ENGLISH football has been given a desperately needed lift by the European exploits of Leeds United, the cavalier style of some unlikely pace-setters in the domestic game and the spectacular displays of a genuine new talent.

Leeds progressed to the second round of the Champions' Cup, and a gigantic money-spinning tie against Rangers, after a third meeting with Stuttgart in Barcelona. Most observers felt the match should not have been played, but then that made success all the more satisfying.

Leeds produced a magnificent performance in the second leg at Elland Road, winning 4-1 to level at 4-4 on aggregate.

They left the pitch, however, believing they had been eliminated on away goals.

Then came the row over Stuttgart's four foreigners, and the decision to have a replay. Leeds commendably ensured that justice was seen to be done through a 2-1 victory.

Blackburn established a landmark for the FA's Premier League and gave a clear pointer to the rest of the clubs when they demolished Norwich 7-1 at Ewood Park and replaced them as leaders.

The team that Kenny Dalglish built with Jack Walker's money are giving a good return on the investments.

Alan Shearer has been in magnificent form, much to the chagrin of Manchester United and others who felt the price was too high. The fact is that Shearer is a rare commodity — the complete centre-forward.

His goals, 13 in a dozen matches tell only part of the story. He has pace, strength, confidence, control and vision. He has the ability to go it alone and the team sense to feed a colleague.

One moment he is digging into his reserves of aggression to charge an opponent off the ball, the next chipping the goalkeeper with an exquisite touch.

Inspired

He is only 22, and experience, especially international experience, should refine an exceptional talent.

Norwich, too, were enjoying their season, until they travelled up to East Lancashire.

Coventry were third and QPR, inspired by 36-year-old Ray Wilkins, were fourth.

Aston Villa took Dean Saunders off Liverpool's hands and he promptly produced three pairs of goals to underline the ambitions of manager Ron Atkinson and his side.

A marvellous goal by Dalian Atkinson secured victory for Villa away to Wimbledon and fifth place in the table, one ahead of a Manchester United team seeking domestic comfort after the misery of a shoot-out elimination from the UEFA Cup in Moscow.

United, like Leeds and Arsenal, have struggled to find consistent form.

Nottingham Forest, without a League win since the opening weekend were stranded at the bottom, while Tottenham were only three places above them.

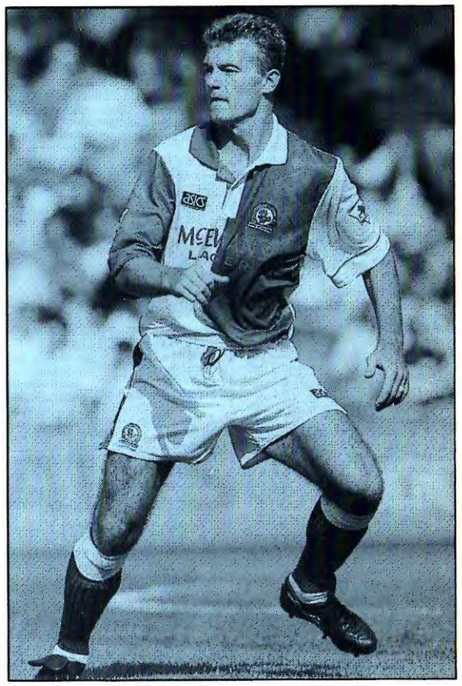
Liverpool crept away from the immediate danger zone by virtue of a fortunate goal against Sheffield Wednesday at a tense Anfield.

They also trailed by a barely-believable three-goal margin to Third Division Chesterfield in the Coca-Cola Cup before drawing 4-4 and winning the replay 4-1.

Embattled manager Graeme Souness said: "The only crisis we have is an injury crisis. People are envious of this club and what it has achieved."

Another former Liverpool player, Kevin Keegan, is manager of the First Division leaders, Newcastle, who won their opening 11 matches.

DERICK **ALLSOP**



Shearer . . . proving to be a bargain, even at £3.6 million.

UEFA's welcome gesture

UEFA are to give £71,000 grant aid to the champions and runners-up in the Konica League of Wales, to assist with the costs of taking part in European competition.

Not surprisingly, that has heartened all clubs, especially those in early contention for the lucrative places. Some had been wary of a European campaign, as previous experiences had shown the financial risk involved. This will be all but removed by the grant, a result of UEFA's TV and sponsorship deals.

Increased attendances are another welcome change. Newtown nearly hit the 1,000 mark in the local derby with Caersws, while Holywell Town had 670 for their League Cup game against Connah's Quay Nomads.

These figures are low in comparison with many countries, but in many cases they are double or treble previous figures.

Judging by the situation so far, the League's future looks very healthy.

One of the FAW's aims in restructuring the country's system was to provide a stage on which the nation's talent could perform, and thus attract professional attention.

This seems to have borne fruit surprisingly early, as Swansea City have given trials to three players, unnamed to prevent other clubs being alerted. This could set a pattern that will unearth the wealth of talent existing in Wales.

Two Konica League clubs were victims of massive giant-killing acts by Third Division teams. CPD Porthmadog were crushed 7-2 at home by Cemaes Bay, and Afan Lido were 5-1 victims at Caerau.

Haverfordwest County lost top spot in the League to ever-improving Inter Cardiff, while Cwmbran Town, still in form, continue to challenge.

Conway United, despite goalscoring problems, Aberystwyth Town and Bangor City also are staying in touch, but City's 4-0 defeat at Inter Cardiff was a setback.

First trophy for Linfield

THE first trophy of the Northern Ireland season was decided at the Oval when Linfield beat Ards 2-0 to lift the Ulster Cup.

This was a workmanlike rather than spectacular performance by the Belfast Blues, but manager Eric Bowyer is hoping that this is a good omen as Linfield aim to lift their first major title since they won the League in 1989.

A punchless Ards team, admittedly missing striker Harry McCourt, were caught by a 25th-minute goal, ironically scored by their former player, Robert Campbell. Ritchie Johnston scored the second in the 60th minute.

The first managerial casualty of the season was Bangor's John Flanagan, who cited "personal and business reasons" for his decision to leave.

Flanagan was appointed in February 1988, and led the club to second place in 1990-91 on a shoestring budget. That was their best placing in their 73-year history, and allowed them to play in Europe for the first time. The new manager is Flanagan's former assistant, Nigel Best.

All three Northern Ireland representatives, as expected, bowed out at the first attempt in Europe. The best performance was achieved by Glenavon, who drew 1-1 with Antwerp at home in the Cup-winners' Cup — then, against all the odds, drew 1-1 after extra time in Belgium before losing on penalties.

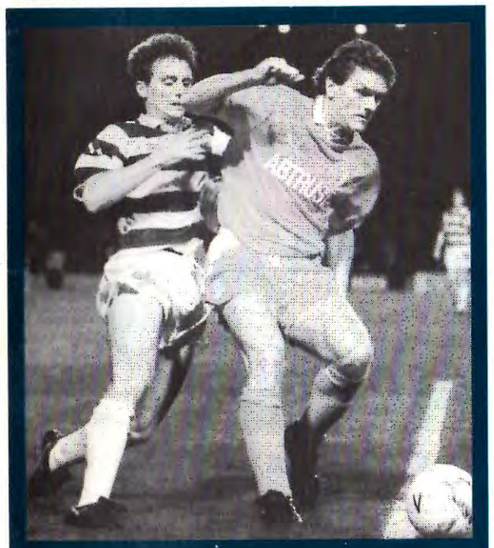
The Directors were so delighted with their part-timers that they paid a win bonus.

Glenavon manager Alan Fraser must be in with a good chance of lifting the League title for the Lurgan side for the first time since 1960.

The Irish kept their World Cup hopes of qualifying for the 1994 World Cup finals when they drew 0-0 with Spain at Windsor Park.

The technically superior Spanish were unable to prise open a defence in which Tommy Wright played a starring role. He made two superb saves in a minute, from Hierro and Michel, and in between Amor rattled the bar!

ROY **KITSON**



The BEAR is still a power

ABERDEEN'S inauspicious start was forgotten in the club's run to the final of the Skol Cup, a tournament which has been especially popular with the Dons in recent times.

They have appeared in five of the last eight finals and have featured in some memorable encounters, most notably against the Souness-lead Rangers teams of 1987 and 1988.

Their achievement this year, however, has been due in no small part to the inspirational presence of 32-year-old former Scotland captain Roy Aitken (above).

For a player who, at one time, appeared likely to be a "one-club" man having spent 15 years with Celtic, Aitken has followed a rather nomadic existence during the latter stages of his career, spending time with both Newcastle and St Mirren before going to Pittodrie, where he combines coaching duties with his on-field activities.

"People made the mistake of writing me off when I left Celtic," said the man known as "The Bear" in his Parkhead days.

"I like to think they were wrong. I had a good couple of seasons at Newcastle and I felt I played well enough in a St Mirren side constantly trying to fight off relegation.

Sharpened

"The move to Aberdeen has certainly sharpened up my game and Willie Miller has given me the opportunity to become involved in the management side. That is importance to me as I've always had ambitions in that area, but I want to keep on playing for as long as I can.

"I won't be making the mistake of hanging my boots up too quickly — too many players have taken that step and lived to regret it."

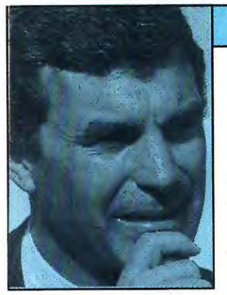
After several years of unmitigated disasters in the European club competitions, Scotland's representatives restored a degree of dignity in this year's first-round ties when Rangers, Celtic and Hearts all made progress, with the latter two overcoming first-leg defeats from Koln and Slavia Prague in order to qualify.

Hibs and European debutants Airdrie were each eliminated at the hands of quality opposition, Anderlecht and Sparta Prague, but were not disgraced. Airdrie, in particular, obtained experience of the refereeing vagaries which are often a feature of football at this level.

Celtic's remarkable victory over Koln helped avert talk of a crisis at Parkhead after Liam Brady's men had stumbled to inglorious home defeats by Hibs and Partick, but there remains an undercurrent of unrest amongst the Celtic fans as they watch the gap between their team and Rangers getting wider.

The supporters also remain unclear as to long-term stadium proposals. With the 1994 deadline looming closer, the Celtic board have not yet finalised plans for either the renovation of Celtic Park or for the construction of a new stadium.

ALAN **FAIRLEY**



TREVOR**BROOKING**

Gascoigne's return atones for a lost point

Gascoigne . . . made an excellent return to the England side after an 18 month lay-off with injury.

ENGLAND began their World Cup qualifying campaign with a 1-1 draw at home to Norway, and such was the despondency beforehand that it was greeted with relief.

A point was lost, but because there was a definite improvement on previous matches the result fuelled hopes that better times may be on the horizon.

The commitment and passion in England's play was lacking in Sweden during the European Championship.

Everyone chased and harassed Norway into mistakes, never allowing them time to settle on the ball. This always was an important strength of successful British sides, and it highlighted a new spirit running through the squad.

England also created several chances, something they had been unable to produce in recent months. In previous games it was often difficult to see where goals were going to come from, which added to the pressure defensively, because of the feeling, that a goal conceded was going to mean defeat.

Paul Gascoigne's long-awaited return surpassed anything I could have expected after 18 months of worry over his rebuilt knee. In all honesty, I doubted the wisdom of his selection after only a handful of club appearances for Lazio, which had lasted no more than an hour each time.

His inclusion also affected the rest of the side, with David Platt, David Batty and Paul Ince making up a quartet of central midfielders with no obvious candidate to supply the width.

Gascoigne played a free, roaming role, released from any defensive duties when Norway gained possession. Even though still only 75 per cent towards full match fitness his wonderful touch and balance stood out as he wriggled his way into spaces nobody else could find.

He gave England a subtlety and vision missing during his absence.

Earned

Of course it would be unfair to suggest this was a one-man show but the moments of flair came when he was in possession.

Unfortunately, an elbowing offence, which rightly earned Gascoigne a yellow card, was a reminder that sometimes he is prone to unnecessary lapses which could prove costly at a later date.

The threat of suspension already looms for one of the later group matches, and that must be a worry for manager Graham Taylor who depended so much on Gascoigne against Norway.

I still feel that Waddle and Beardsley could thrive in that free, roaming role and Taylor must contemplate an alternative choice, so that qualification does not rely solely on one player. Ian Wright had a frustrating time after wasting a clear chance in the first half and must be concerned at being substituted.

His first touch was not good at times because he seemed too anxious to please, and hopefully Taylor will give him further chances to prove his worth.

Only David Hirst seems a suitable alternative but Taylor must resist the temptation to chop and change too much now. That was a mistake during his previous two years in charge.

Alan Shearer is the direct replacement for Gary Lineker, who so often produced goals for England. It is an impossible act to follow but Shearer has different qualities of his own which will pay dividends as his experience grows.

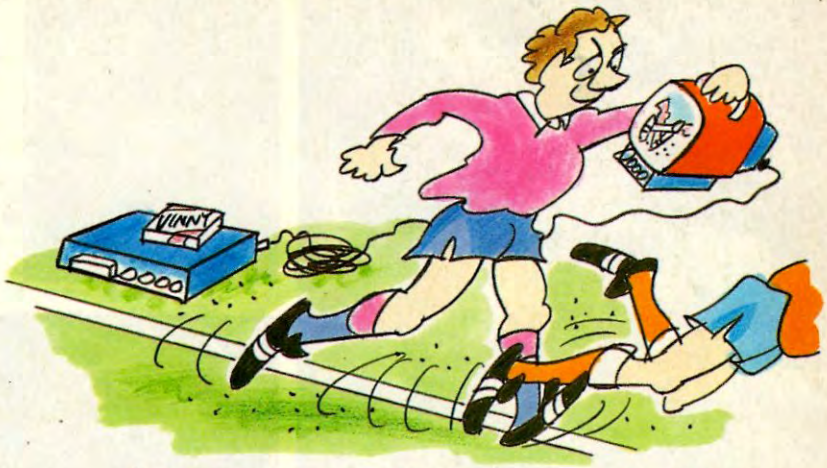
Unfortunately England depend on that happening in time to collect sufficient points to clinch qualification.

Only time will tell how costly that dropped point against Norway will prove, but with Poland drawing in Holland the group is wide open.

England should take six points from the next three matches, against San Marino and Turkey (twice). Then Holland at Wembley in April is followed by trips to Poland and Norway where qualification — or not — could well be decided.

Teams may be disqualified for . . .

fielding foreign players



letting their players watch the Vinny Jones video

moving the goalposts

over-celebration of goals scored

not finishing a game before midnight

wearing an aggressive strip